

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk November 3, 2013

East edition No 580

IMMIGRATION »

Ukip warns of Roma invasion

Why one county councillor says Romanian travellers are heading this way

PROFILE »

The Lib Dem with faith

Nick Clegg's pal in MP race

ANIMALS »

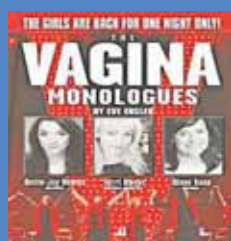
Pets plunge off cliffs

Growing fears as dogs fall to death off iconic White Cliffs

IN-DEPTH FOCUS »

Are we going to the dogs?

How greyhound racing is banking on a revival after years in the doldrums



The Vagina Monologues Nov 12th 7.20pm



Alan Davies; Life is Pain Nov 16th 8pm



Snow White; Vienna Festival Ballet Nov 22nd 7.30pm



Bellowhead Nov 23rd 7.30pm



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Stormy start to the week but are we a nation living in fear?

AMID all our reliance on technology and all the gadgets and gizmos we now use as part of our daily routine, this week reminded us all that we remain at the mercy of the elements.

The storms on Monday may not have been as dramatic, or damaging, as the Great Storm of 1987, which remains such a fresh memory for so many of us, but it served as a wake-up call that if the winds doth blow we become vulnerable.

This week should also come as something of a reminder that we are frequently becoming a victim of riding a news agenda.

In the US, when a hurricane is set to blast its way through the southern states, towns and villages batten down the hatches knowing full well that even if it is not as severe as predicted, there will be a path of devastating destruction.

It is perhaps easy to fall into the trap of thinking the UK media

sometimes craves such impending chaos where, in truth, the threat is, from the outset, far less.

Forecasters, so mocked in the past for not getting a difficult science spot on, play safe and issue 'weather warnings' at the drop of a hat. It seems rarely a week goes by during the year now when there is not a coloured warning in place warning of impending floods, snow drifts, sun stroke or structural damage due to high winds.

As a consequence, it creates an alarm and fear which perhaps didn't use to exist.

With social media now so influential, that concern can sweep the nation faster than Monday's dark clouds.

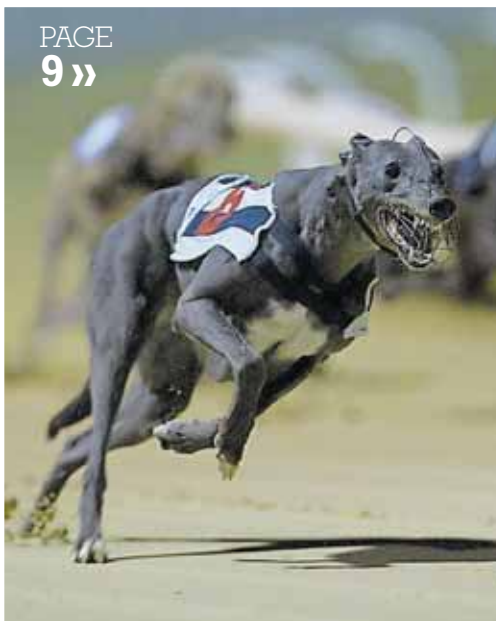
There is a sense of responsibility not to whip up that anxiety we should perhaps all shoulder – no more so those of us in the media, of course.

On which note I wish you all a great weekend.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

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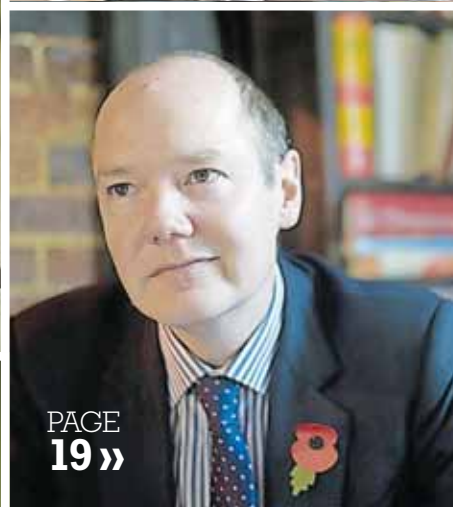
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Death and destruction as storm blows in chaos

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

HUNDREDS of homes across the county spent much of the week without power after Monday morning's storm caused havoc.

UK Power Networks, the firm tasked with distributing power for all the various energy companies, said by Friday there were still some isolated areas without electricity, but that it expected them to be back up and running as soon as possible.

Problems were caused after the high winds brought down trees and damaged power cables.

Meanwhile, one family were trying to come to terms with their grief after a teenager was killed when a tree fell onto the mobile home she was sleeping in.

Tunbridge Wells grammar school student Bethany Freeman, 17, died at the scene after the tree fell at her home in Hever, near Edenbridge.

Her mother said the family were "devastated".

Linda Wybar, headteacher at Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School, said: "The whole school community is profoundly shocked



STORMS: Wild seas off Dover as high winds sweep across county. Credit: Phil Houghton

and saddened at the news.

"Throughout her time at TWGGS, Beth was well-known by staff and girls, universally respected as an individual who always had time for others and gave a huge amount to the school, generously committing her energy and enthusiasm, whatever the need.

"Beth was a dedicated and truly

outstanding sportswoman, whose unparalleled role in TWGGS sports will truly be sorely missed. She represented the county and local clubs in hockey, cricket and netball.

"Through her hard work and enthusiasm for sport she will never be forgotten. Her close friends and teachers, as well as the wider school community, will miss her

beyond measure, and the school will do all we can to support girls as they struggle to come to terms with Beth's untimely death. All our thoughts and love are with Beth's parents and brothers at this saddest of times."

Full storm coverage, as the county counts the costs of the carnage, can be found on pages 24 and 25.

Drug ring smashed as four jailed after £5m of cannabis discovered

FOUR men this week started lengthy jail terms after police raids smashed a £5 million drugs ring.

Officers described the huge hauls of cannabis – seized following raids in Paddock Wood and Great Chart, near Ashford – as one of the biggest ever seen in the county.

Brothers Danny and Michael Malone, Martin Merritt and Hugh Webb all appeared at Maidstone Crown Court on Thursday.

The Malones and Merritt had pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply cannabis at an earlier hearing. During the trial of Webb, in which he was found guilty of the same charge, the court heard how the foursome were caught red-handed in two separate raids in one week.

On March 4, officers swooped on vans on a driveway just off Queen Street, Paddock Wood.

They found Danny Malone, 43, of Collier Street, Tonbridge, in one of the vans exchanging approximately 200 kilos of packaged cannabis resin.

Four days later in Sandy Lane, Great Chart, they stopped a lorry with a 40ft refrigerated container, driven by Hugh Webb, 52, of Dagenham, Essex. Inside they discovered more than one tonne of cannabis resin.

In a nearby storage unit, officers found Michael Malone, 46, of Hove, East Sussex, and Martin Merritt, 39, of Dagenham. The unit had been rented in Danny Malone's name the month before.

In total, just over 1.9 tonnes of cannabis resin was seized in the space of a week. The haul boasted an estimated street value of £4.9m.

Danny Malone was sentenced to eight years in prison, his brother Michael to six years, Merritt was ordered to serve five years in jail and Webb five years.

Det Sgt Andy Nicoll said: "We don't yet know if these drugs were destined for the streets of Kent or further afield, but this seizure of a large quantity of drugs has hit the drugs network of Kent hard."

Latest dispersal zone goes live in bid to solve problems

DOVER town centre has become the latest to deploy a dispersal zone in a bid to crack down on anti-social behaviour.

Starting last Monday and running until April 27, police will now have added powers to disperse groups causing intimidation or distress. Failure to comply will see them arrested and possibly facing jail.

It follows a rise in reports from

residents and businesses about youths congregating and people drinking in the town centre.

The zone covered by the dispersal area includes Dover Priory Station to the west, the area around Priory Road, High Street, Bridge Street, Charlton Green, Maison Dieu Road, Castle Hill Road, Marine Parade, Waterloo Crescent and Townwall Street.

Arrests after girl wakes up to find men in her bedroom

TWO men have been arrested after a teenage girl awoke to find intruders in her bedroom in Folkestone.

The shocked 18-year-old woke around 1am last Thursday to find the men at her home in Garden Road.

Without realising she was awake, the crooks were spotted rifling through her mother's handbag before leaving through

the front door.

When the brave teen confronted them, she was hit in the face and knocked to the ground, suffering face and leg injuries.

Three mobile phones, a Kindle and £10 in cash was stolen.

On Friday, police arrested two local men – aged 17 and 18.

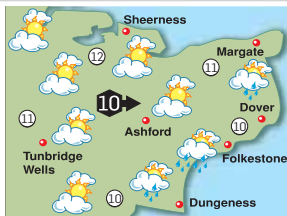
They have been released on bail pending further enquiries until November 18.



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TODAY: Bright and sunny, with showers later. Light westerly winds. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F). **TONIGHT:** Clear. Heavy rain later. Min temp 8-11C (46-52F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	10.15	6.8	22.35	6.8
Margate	11.25	4.7	23.38	4.8
St Mary's	04.00	5.7	16.18	5.8

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 12C	Min 6C
Tuesday	Max 14C	Min 10C
Wednesday	Max 16C	Min 9C
Thursday	Max 15C	Min 9C
Friday	Max 15C	Min 9C
Saturday	Max 14C	Min 8C

Information supplied by **MeteoGroup**

Bluewater blasted for 'cycling racoon in bow tie'

SHOPPING complex Bluewater has been blasted by a leading animal welfare group after a racoon performed on a mini-bicycle during a pet exhibition last weekend.

The Pet Expo at the Greenhithe centre saw the animal - whose owner had previously made it audition for Britain's Got Talent - wear a red polka dot bow tie and pedal around the event, aimed at promoting responsible animal and pet ownership and care.

David Cowdrey, RSPCA's head of communications, said: "Using wild animals in crude circus-style acts under the guise of 'responsible ownership' is entirely misjudged."

A Bluewater spokesman said: "We're aware some of the content caused concern and we take this very seriously. We apologise for any concerns raised."

There are no plans for Pet Expo to return.



PINCHED: One of the stolen statues

Manor house raided of two £100,000 lions

A PAIR of ornate stone lions - worth an estimated £100,000 each - have been swiped from outside a Grade II-listed building in a daring raid.

Police are now hunting those who carried out the crime from outside the manor house in the Royal British Legion Village, near Aylesford, at around 10.30pm last Sunday.

Each sandstone carving is one-metre tall, having sat on plinths either side of the main entrance. One depicts a lion killing a snake, the other is of a lioness with her cub. They were sculpted by John Thomas in 1838.

CCTV shows three men with a large low loader vehicle acting suspiciously at the entrance.

Police are linking the incident to a separate theft of a white Isuzu lorry vehicle from Lake Road in Quarry Wood, earlier that night.

The stolen vehicle was found abandoned in Rochester Road, Burham, at 1pm on Monday.

Insp Nick Sparkes said: "These statues are unique and were possibly stolen to order. They may have been taken out of Kent so we encourage any antique or garden ornament sellers to be aware of them."

Anyone with any information should call 01622 604284.

Remembrance parade is back on track as helpers plug gaps left by police

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

CHATHAM's popular parade to mark Remembrance Sunday will take place along its normal route after all, following a row which threatened to derail the sombre event.

Thousands of people are set to line the route next weekend, forming one of dozens taking place across the county in the annual show of respect to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defending the nation.

But the Chatham event had been clouded in concern after the police proposed an alternative route as a result of a change in laws, giving police less powers to regulate traffic for such events and no longer provide officers to close roads.

Concerned organisers went public with their concerns, forcing the county's top officer, Chief Constable Ian Learmonth, to intervene and reassure those involved.

But now confirmation has been given the Chatham parade will run



POPPIES: Relief as parade gets the go-ahead from police chiefs

along the normal route behind Debenhams, moving along Chatham High Street to Victoria Gardens via Railway Street passing St John's Church and Chatham railway station.

The parade will be marshalled by volunteers from Kent Raynet, which provides extra communications for the county's emergency services, and South East 4x4 Response, which provides emergency vehicles, supported by officers from Kent Police.

Cllr Vince Maple, representing Chatham Central ward on Medway Council for Labour, said: "It is great we have resolved this positively, with the community working with the police to find the right outcome."

"I am grateful to all those contributing to ensure that Chatham's parade can take place, allowing the maximum recognition and remembrance for those who fought for our freedoms."

Rev Canon Brian Adams, who will conduct the service, thanked those supporting the event. He said: "I look forward to a record number of people joining us for both the parade and the remembrance service."

Make sure you pick up your free copy of KoS next weekend for a special series of features to mark Remembrance Day.

Multiplex cinema set for town centre site

A REVISED planning application for a major development in Dover - which will include a multiplex cinema - has been submitted.

The council confirmed developer Bond City has put in a new application for the Dover Town Investment Zone - better known as the St James' development.

It follows completion of a deal with cinema chain Cineworld and changes to the development agreement between the council and Bond City.

The revision to the proposed plans includes a six-screen cinema with over 900 seats to be operated by Cineworld, as well as three restaurants.

Paul Watkins, leader of Dover District Council, said: "Securing Cineworld at the St James' development is a major step forward in our plans for the town centre and provides an important leisure amenity for both residents and visitors alike. This is a sign of renewed investor confidence in Dover."

Picket lines in place as uni staff walk out

STAFF at universities across the county staged a one-day walk-out on Thursday as part of a day of strike action in a row over pay.

Picket lines were in place outside the main entrances to the University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church and the University of the Creative Arts in Canterbury.

It formed part of the first ever co-ordinated strike action by the unions Unison, Unite and the University and College Union.

Classes and services were cancelled over what staff described as a "miserly" pay offer of one per cent.

Christine Hooper, steward at the University of Kent branch of Unison, said: "Universities and the government have been relying on the goodwill of our members to keep higher education running."

"While vice-chancellors and a few others have been getting big increases, I meet members delivering the services to keep the doors open struggling to keep their heads above water."

Law firm appeals for help in asbestos case

A LAW firm is calling for help in pinning down dates as to when employers at the south east's power stations introduced steps to prevent staff being exposed to potentially deadly asbestos.

Thomson Snell & Passmore, which has offices in Tunbridge Wells and Dartford, act for three claimants who have developed mesothelioma caused by asbestos exposure at work some years ago - one is a woman who died from the illness as a consequence of handling her husband's overalls.

It is now contacting hundreds of ex-employees of the Central Electricity Generating Board and wants to hear from others who worked at power stations from the 1950s to 1980s. The law firm says, for example, only very recently tons of asbestos was removed from Dungeness.

Anyone who can shed light on when the CEGB informed staff of the dangers should contact Alan Care at the law firm on alan.care@ts-p.co.uk or call 01892 701219.

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Police step up patrols to target Bonfire Night jobs

KENT Police says it will be stepping up patrols this week to crack down on troublemakers around Bonfire Night.

The force said that while anti-social behaviour is a year-round issue, it is especially prevalent around November 5 and Halloween – although that seemed to pass without major incident.

Last year officers dealt with numerous calls about youths throwing eggs and drinking alcohol, and generally causing a nuisance.

Deputy Chief Constable Alan Pughsley said: "Vulnerable people can be left feeling scared and worried around this time of year because of firework misuse."



"Everyone has the right to go about their daily life without the threat of being a victim of anti-social behaviour."

"One person's fun should never be another's misery."

Ann Barnes chews over further cuts to budget

KENT Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes will on Tuesday set out her initial thoughts on the policing budget for the year ahead.

But with a government grant cut of some five per cent, the future is looking anything but rosy, particularly since the force has already had to tighten its belt to the tune of some £50

million in recent years.

In a report to the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel, Mrs Barnes will say: "At this stage the financial impact, coupled to simple inflation, implies a further £20m of savings are required in 2015/16 onwards."

It could mean a further 290 officer and staff job losses.

...also

Your chance to quiz PCC

KENT Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes is hosting a Meet the Commissioner event in Tonbridge on Wednesday.

Members of the public will have a chance to raise any policing-related concerns at the Angel Leisure Centre from 6-8pm. Visit <http://bit.ly/1eMAsgm>.

School lunch dish of day

SCHOOL dinners will be in the spotlight next week as authorities push to encourage children to enjoy healthy school meals as part of a nationwide drive.

National School Meals Week, which runs Monday to Friday, will see KCC calling on pupils to try a school lunch for a day.

Don't forget your poppy

PREPARATIONS are well under way for next Sunday's Remembrance Day services and parades.

Events are being held across the county with commemorations being held at war memorials in the majority of towns and villages.

MEP candidate in visit

LABOUR candidate for the upcoming European elections for the south east, Anne-liese Dodds, will be in Tunbridge Wells on Thursday as part of a cross-county election campaign.

She will meet the public at the Millennium Clock in Fiveways from 4pm to 6pm.

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A dogged determination to get sport back on track

Dog racing's slow demise has largely gone unnoticed, but Sittingbourne's Central Park is working hard to bring back the crowds for what is still an exhilarating night out, as **Joe Bill** discovered...

UNDER the bright floodlights, the tension builds amid the cool night air. A hush descends around the spectators before a distinctive electric whirring begins once again.

Before you know it, the 'hare', with its flapping tail, is racing around the outside of the sand track and the traps are open.

Six rockets fly out from their white boxes and tear through the night bringing forth shouts from the crowd.

The noise levels accelerate almost as fast as the dogs. And no sooner does it begin, does it conclude.

Just 30 seconds after the traps sprang open, a winner crosses the line, the dog is celebrated and the punters turn back to their form guides.

It may lack the showmanship or glamour of the self-styled 'sport of kings', horseracing, but what greyhound racing lacks it makes up for in a gritty charm.

And Sittingbourne's Central Park is now the venue for those wanting to watch the action.

Though scores of greyhound tracks across the country have closed in recent years – including venues at Canterbury, Ramsgate, Rochester and Maidstone in Kent alone – there is a view the bad times that have dogged the sport in the past could finally be at an end.

Keith Hougham is acting stadium manager at Sittingbourne. He is no stranger to the sport, having been involved for more than 40 years and once owned racing dogs.

"Greyhound racing is certainly not at its peak," he admits. "The amount of greyhound stadiums that have closed throughout the country in the last few years is shocking."

"We only have one stadium in London now, which is at Wimbledon, and there are lots of adverse comments about its future too."

"At one point you probably had

more than 10 in London.

"Its heyday was in the mid 1950s and 60s; that's when the crowds were really big. In those days it was the working man's sport. The working man didn't go to horse racing and there weren't TV screens to watch it on either. It was an easily accessible sport to go and see."

The seemingly engrained image of the old man with cloth cap turning up with a dog to race on a dodgy track is something the industry is trying desperately to move away from.

Occasionally, it has dabbled with being in vogue once again – much of it courtesy of Britpop band Blur who used images of a dog racing meet on their hugely successful *Parklife* album.

But a chequered past involving animal cruelty cases, and constant claims of corruption, have led large sections of the public to turn their back on the sport.

But those at the Swale Borough Council-leased stadium are determined

to bring "a night at the dogs" into the 21st century with a clean cut, wholesome and transparent approach.

This starts with enticing a new clientele.

Mr Hougham said: "From a spectacle point of view, it is still one of the most exciting sports you can go and see. It generates a lot of enthusiasm from both young and old and you haven't got to spend a lot of money to come racing."

"But it is not based just around betting; it's a social occasion, a night out where you can have different things going on, family parties, stag nights, hen parties and corporate evenings."

Last month the venue hosted both the Kent derby and the prestigious Greyhound Grand National which were shown live on Sky Sports for the

third year in a row, and organisers are hoping to build on the reputation that comes with being on the television.

The trading company which runs the stadium, Caerns Ltd, has been owned by race promoter Roger Caerns for 17 years.

Mr Hougham adds: "The Grand National may have been lost if Mr Caerns hadn't come in and supported it. One or two of the older races have been lost because people haven't come in to sponsor them as crowds have fallen.

"But having Sky Sports come to film it for a third year has been really exciting. Hopefully, this is an annual thing that is in place for us now."

The team at Sittingbourne – which includes 15 salaried staff and up to 45 casual workers from the area – have to work hard to keep the devoted "ring punters" coming through the door as well as introducing the sport to new people.

"You have a hardcore of people that will always come," Mr Hougham explains, "but we have a lot of repeat business from people coming back who have enjoyed a one-off trip to the dog racing.

"But we are always out there looking for new customers. If you have people come along to try it, and you look after them properly, then there is the hope they will come back. It's a leisure industry, put in front of people as an option of a good night out."

A recurring problem, however, is the welfare of the animals.

Are the dogs forced to run in the races? And what happens to them after they retire from the sport?

Horror stories of mistreated greyhounds unethically destroyed once their owners are done with them have repeatedly taken up column inches in the national press.

But both Sittingbourne's dog track team and the sport itself have taken new steps to make sure the welfare of the animal is regarded as paramount as well as being very visible to all.

Former greyhound racer Bill Buckley is the chairman of the Sittingbourne branch of the Retired Greyhound Trust (RGT). There are now 72 such trusts around the country and most are affiliated to a particular track.

The Sittingbourne branch rehomed 400 greyhounds last year and Mr Buckley took enormous pride in revealing the trust, as a whole, rehomed 60,000 greyhounds last year – more than the Dogs' Trust charity – and on a far smaller budget.

"We have room in the kennels for 20 dogs at any one time," he explains.

"There are 17 contracted trainers at Sittingbourne and each one gets a place to put a dog with us. Once they're homed they can put another one in. It is a one-in one-out system.

"We have had dogs that have been with us for three years before, but you just need to find the right person for that particular dog.

"It can be expensive with vet bills, but we never put a healthy dog down. If they are with us for three years then they are with us for three years, – that's just the way it goes."

The trust has worked very closely with Sittingbourne since its creation in 2006, and the stadium even provides a room for the trust's shop on race days to raise money and awareness through punters.



RUNNING ON EMPTY: Sittingbourne's Central Park track is now the only dog racing venue left in the county, a sad reflection of a sport that once boasted parks at Canterbury, Ramsgate, Rochester and Maidstone

"We still get questioned about it," Mr Buckley says. "The sport gets a bad press if anything goes wrong – everybody is quick to jump on it. But when good things are happening it is not publicised enough.

"On race nights we still get people coming to the shop and saying things like 'I suppose you take them round the back and shoot them!'.
"It is very frustrating. There is still this 1970s idea of what goes on."

But Mr Buckley does admit the way things were done in the old days was unacceptable and it is now up to the sport's governing bodies to show their new transparency and change the public's perception of racing.

He adds: "The tracks are certainly

“ The sport gets a bad press if anything goes wrong – everybody is quick to jump on it. But when good things are happening it is not publicised enough ”

Bill Buckley, chairman of the Sittingbourne branch of the RGT

trying to do more about the whole dog welfare issue. The dogs have always loved racing, but it is what used to happen to them afterwards that was the problem.

"In the past, before the RGT was set up, it was always thought greyhounds were not good pets. But it's not the case. These days they are not allowed to be vicious.

"When they are racing, if they so much as look away from the hare, they call it fighting because they are not concentrating on what they are doing and they will get banned."

Under licensing rules set by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain it has become almost impossible for a racing greyhound to go missing or to be put down without being authorised.

Mr Buckley added: "If an owner has a racing dog and it hasn't raced for six weeks they will get a letter from the GBGB asking where that dog is. If they can't explain where it is, they are banned from ever having another race dog. There are random drugs test on the dogs now, like human athletes.

"But in the same way as horse racing, there is always an element of something that isn't correct, and we want them out of the sport because they are not good for it.

"The rules of racing say that putting a dog down has to be as a last resort and it has to be verified by a vet.

"It's not illegal to euthanize a greyhound or any dog; you can take your dog to the vet to have it put down, but the vet's ethics should kick in to say no because there is nothing wrong with the dog. And we are also here to protect them."

In October 2009, Central Park was suspended for two months from the lucrative Bookmakers Afternoon Greyhound Service (BAGS). BAGS provides live footage of greyhound races supplied to betting shops and gambling websites around the UK.

This provides a good source of income to stadiums as the BAGS fund is made up from charges paid by big betting firms like William Hill and Coral who buy the rights to beam the races direct to their customers.

At the time, betting paper the Racing Post said there was a "lack of confidence in the betting ring at the Sittingbourne track".

As a consequence, the legitimacy of the races themselves is now of upmost importance to the circuit's bosses, as Mr Hougham explained.

He said: "We were off BAGS for a little while due to an issue related with the betting ring.

"It's history that is not really admissible in this day and age. It was a situation that went on for about three months that did cause some financial

difficulty here, but it was resolved."

Although Sittingbourne was swiftly reinstated onto the BAGS contract, and even given a third weekly race meeting to broadcast, this type of incident is exactly what racing chiefs at the Eurolink Park want to stamp out.

Any hint of cheating; whether it be through racing injured dogs, using performance enhancing drugs or over feeding the animal so it won't perform are continuously searched for.

Mr Buckley added: "The whole thing is so regulated now. We are a GBGB licensed venue. All dogs are microchipped and that is read when they come to the stadium.

"Then they are all weighed in – they have to fall within a kilo of their last racing weight otherwise they will be withdrawn with the weight variation.

"They are then checked by the vet, and anytime the greyhounds are here, the vet is here. They have a run up and the vet checks them out again.

"The dogs are then locked down until they are ready for race. There are two GBGB licensed paddock stewards over seeing at all times. The dogs are controlled from the minute they arrive to the minute they go."

The performance of the dogs during the race is also continuously under scrutiny from stewards and the race manager with dogs who perform



Pictures: ADY KERRY



significantly badly rechecked and those who perform significantly better than their last race will often undergo a blood sample test.

Mr Buckley adds: "It's a big industry, the betting industry, and we have to be seen as whiter than white and I have every confidence we do that here. The security and welfare of the race and the dogs are very, very high in the greyhound racing business."

Comparisons are continuously made between greyhound and horse racing, with the latter seemingly always the more trusted of the two.

This is something Mr Hougham takes with a pinch of salt.

He said: "It always amazes me how a horse trainer can bring a horse to race after 365 days without any public trial at any time. They can back their horse from 16/1 to 6/1 and the horse could win by a country mile. And the trainer gets a pat on the back.

"If a greyhound trainer comes to the track, the dogs have had to run within 21 days of his last trial to be able to be in the race, so it's all very transparent.

"The form card shows what the dog has done in the past. But if the trainer then bets the dog down from 3/1 to 2/1 and it wins, there is a public outcry and he must be a cheat.

"You don't know what they've been doing that with that horse for the past 365 days, but they are not called a

cheat. That is the nature of how people look at horse racing compared to greyhound racing.

"There is a big gulf between the two. They call horse racing the sport of kings – I'm not quite sure what they call greyhound racing."

Being constantly on the receiving end of the accusing public as well as under continuous surveillance by the GBGB, life for a professional greyhound trainer has become a tough one.

The dramatic fall in crowd attendances has led to a drop in prize money and many trainers have to take a second job to pay for their hobby or have financial backing from wealthy dog owners.

Tony Taylor, from Hillside Kennels at Guildford, is one of 17 trainers contracted to supply race dogs for Sittingbourne's Central Park.

From his kennels, Mr Taylor supplies an average of eight dogs per race night at Sittingbourne – all of which have to be in top condition.

It is a full-time occupation, with little financial reward for lots of long days and hard work.

He says: "I don't really have a day off. On race nights I will have to be up very early to prepare the dogs and won't get in until around 1am."

Mr Taylor, who has been a greyhound trainer since 1971, currently

“Any dogs that don't want to race are homed well before they get to a track. We don't use them; you can't force a dog to run. If they don't want to they won't”

Tony Taylor, trainer at Hillside Kennels at Guildford

has 75 dogs with a mixture of individual and syndicate owners paying for his skills.

He adds: "There is no doubt it has been difficult to stay as a trainer. You really have to have a contract somewhere like Sittingbourne. Without it you would have to do it part time and the dogs business as a side line.

"I have been reasonably successful in recent years, but I couldn't make it pay at times and I was just getting more and more in debt because prize money was cut at stadiums.

"So I have gone into partnership with one of my owners; without him I would have gone under myself."

The trainer has mixed feelings about the modern generation of on-

line betting and live races on Sky TV.

"It gets a lot more people interested in greyhounds and viewing greyhounds," he says, "but the downside to that is if they watch it at home they don't come to the track.

"That is the big problem. You can see the decline of greyhound racing in history as bookmakers first opened up on the high street we lost people from the track.

"Then as the shops were allowed to stay open later you lost people from the track, and as video and TV got involved you lost people from the track.

"So instead of masses of people going down to the track, it's now reasonably sparse.

"As a trainer I like a buzz in the stadium shouting for the dogs. When I first started you had thousands going, but that has slimmed a lot."

Mr Taylor is another in the industry who believes it has been hard to shake the unflattering tags that haunt the sport, but is hoping that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

He says: "You hope that this old-fashioned view has gone by the way-side. It was nice for the father and son to go down the track, and that's not really what's it's now like.

"Nowadays it has to be more of a family night out. I want to see more tracks encourage kids to go and watch, and thankfully here at Sit-

tingbourne they do which is a big plus down here.

"It has turned the corner from this cloak and dagger, cloth cap, seedy thing about going to the greyhounds.

"We need to improve the public's perception of greyhound racing. You get a lot of people who think we do nasty things to them and that it is cruel to race a greyhound.

"But, honestly, it is never cruel. These dogs do exactly what they want to do, and they absolutely love racing. They pull to go out on the track.

"Any dogs that don't want to race are homed well before they even get to a track. We don't use them; you can't force a dog to run.

"If they don't want to they won't."

Many stadiums are backed by the big betting companies, meaning that attendances are not of concern because their turnover remains high due to online and bookies shop betting.

But Sittingbourne's races are privately supplied by Caerns Ltd meaning it is imperative for the team at Central Park to get money coming through the door.

This year, the venue became the home of the county's new speedway team, the Kent Kings, which brings racing fans from all over the country to Sittingbourne as well as Sky Sports television. Football long since moved out.

Mr Hougham said: "Maybe the speedway and the dogs will get Sittingbourne on the map. It gets them on TV and brings people to the town.

"They may only buy petrol at the petrol station or buy a Mars bar, but I am hoping we are helping the town get publicity and contributing to the economy."

There are three race nights a week at Central Park on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, and Mr Hougham is keen to make sure the turnstiles keep turning in the future to keep the sport alive in Kent.

But don't be expecting the grandeur and hoi polloi of the horses.

"The dog racing meetings happen a lot quicker," explains Mr Hougham. "At horse races there is a half an hour or more wait in between races.

"Whereas with dog racing they tend to go off in 12-minute intervals – so you get more races.

"Secondly, you have a spectacle where you can see the dog going round the track at all times. With horse racing, sometimes they go out into the countryside, or just in the far distance or out of view

"Here you can see the race from the second the traps open until they cross the finish line."

Although the emphasis remains on betting in the greyhound industry, there are many diehard supporters of the sport who are keen to show there is much more to it than purely paying your money and making your choice.

There is a new movement to regain faith and fans from a disenchanted public and Sittingbourne is one of those venues moving with the times and spearheading the action to bring back a traditional British sport.

Mr Hougham added: "Watching the movement the dogs have in full flow is poetic. They have a great expanse of stretching power.

"Often in photos the dog will have all four legs off the ground.

"They are terrific athletes, they are beautiful dogs and it's a great sport. I'd urge anyone to come and just see this wonderful animal in action."

Apprentice star goes up in smoke as society picks its celebrity guy

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IN THE past it has been heads of state and shamed sport personalities – but this year it was a loud-mouthed former star of TV show *The Apprentice*.

The Edenbridge Bonfire Society has developed something of a reputation for producing what many dub as the world's most famous guy, torched to celebrate Bonfire Night on Saturday.

And on Wednesday morning, after keeping the identity under wraps, it revealed Katie Hopkins as the 'victim' to sit on top of the village's bonfire.

The 30ft-high Ms Hopkins was built from wood, showing her about to stick her foot in her mouth yet again.

It is the society's biggest ever guy and comes complete with witch's broomstick.

A spokesman for the society said: "We ask you: What has Katie Hopkins really done, except to walk out on Sir Alan during *The Apprentice* and then try to be simply outrageous – as often and as publicly as she can possibly manage?"

"Isn't it about time she came in for some 'stick' in return, perhaps with our own Edenbridge-style caricature of her big mouth and her nose designed by Boeing? Keep your foot out of your mouth in future please!"

Her giant effigy was due to go up in smoke on Saturday night at the society's annual procession and firework display, which could attract up to 10,000 spectators.

Businesswoman Ms Hopkins has sculpted a career for herself this year as a media pundit, creating a host of headlines for her outspoken views.

They included not letting her children play with a child whose name she disliked.



PREVIOUS STARS BURNT AT THE STAKE

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2012 Lance Armstrong (cyclist) | 2006 John McCririck (TV presenter) |
| 2011 Mario Balotelli (footballer) | 2005 John Prescott (politician) |
| 2010 Wayne Rooney (footballer) | 2004 Tony Blair (politician) |
| 2009 Katie Price (model) | 2003 Saddam Hussein (dictator) |
| 2008 Jonathan Ross/Russell Brand (TV stars) | 2002 Edwina Currie (politician) |
| 2007 Cherie Blair (barrister/wife of Tony Blair) | 2001 Anne Robinson (TV star) |
| | 2000 Gordon Brown (politician) |

An infamous appearance on ITV's *This Morning* saw her cause uproar when she said: "I think you can tell a great deal from a name."

"For me, there are certain names that I hear and I think 'urgh'."

"For me, a name is a shortcut of finding out what class a child comes from and makes me ask: 'Do I want my children to play with them?'."

"I hear screeched across the playground: 'Tyler! Come back 'ere'."

"It's the Tylers, the Charmains the Chantelles, the Chardonnays."

"I tend to think children who have intelligent names tend to have fairly intelligent parents and they make much better play-dates for my children."

Parents should all be slim too, according to Ms Hopkins, who told *Closer* magazine: "All working mums could be a size eight like me if they put in a bit of effort."

She also said, when discussing childhood obesity, "every fat child lives in the shadow of a fat parent."

The 38-year-old shot to fame on the 2007 edition of BBC's *The Apprentice*. After becoming widely derided she became the first candidate to resign from the process – snubbing the

chance to reach the final stage in the process.

Critics have subsequently suggested she only took part in the show in a bid to launch a media career.

Ms Hopkins said: "The great thing about being British is that we have a sense of humour. If you can't laugh at yourself then someone else will. I wish the team at Edenbridge all the best and I am excited there is now a monster version of myself."

"This country needs more tall women like me who can stand proud and tell it like it is. At 30-foot I must be up there with the best of them."

"I have asked that a Tyler is there to set light to me and that not too many Chardonnays are drunk on the night – in every sense."

Monies raised go the Air Ambulance, a local hospice and other local charities. Last year more than £5,000 was donated.

Society coordinator Charles Laver added: "We look for someone who had done something silly and are in the news. It's not done out of any animosity. We just want someone who has basically put up their hand and said 'pick me' without actually realising."

• For a comprehensive list of the biggest public displays taking place over this weekend see our website www.kentnews.co.uk.



NO TALL ORDER: Edenbridge Bonfire Society's 30ft effigy of the star

Service issues warning as firefighters prepare for walkout

AS THOUSANDS head to displays this weekend, or plan to set off fireworks in their back gardens, a warning has been issued as fire crews stage further industrial action.

In the latest move in a national dispute over pensions, the Fire Brigade Union confirmed members would walkout for two hours on Monday morning, between 6am and 8pm.

It followed an earlier walkout on Friday night. Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) said 999 calls would be answered, but a normal service could not be maintained.

KFRS chief executive, Ann Millington said: "We will be pooling working staff to run response vehicles at locations around the county to provide the best cover possible with the staff

available. We will still be answering 999 calls, but we are asking the public to only call us in a genuine emergency."

"However, everyone needs to appreciate that the service is not operating at our usual level, so it is particularly important during what is traditionally a busy bonfire weekend for the public to take extra care."

Opponents of the strike action have hit out at the timing of the move which coincides with what is traditionally one of the busiest times of the year for the service.

Fire minister Brandon Lewis said: "The FBU should reconsider their decision to strike, announced just four days into discussions, and work for a resolution to this dispute."



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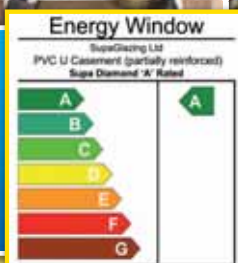
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NOMADIC: A Roma settlement in Bulgaria



Is Roma influx

Chris Britcher looks at latest Ukip claims stoking

A UKIP councillor who flew to Bulgaria to gauge for himself the likely scale of immigration into the UK next year says he now expects a flood of Roma travellers into Kent.

And he claims if the historically nomadic race – who have a history of being discriminated against in their homelands – head for the UK they will look to soak up social security and put a strain on local services.

Hod Birkby was one of 17 Ukip councillors to sweep into County Hall during the Kent County Council local elections in May.

In a fascinating series of reports to be broadcast on BBC Radio Kent this week, Cllr Birkby was flown to Bulgaria to come face-to-face with shoppers, students, the business community and politicians to discover the likelihood of them heading to the UK.

But after apparently seeing his fears allayed, this week he now has a fresh concern.

Representing Folkestone West, and writing for KoS, he believes the relaxation of labour movement laws in January could open the door to hoardes of “low educated or even illiterate” Roma people.

He said: “There is nothing now to stop the Roma peoples from coming, and if they do they will bring with them their own problems. They will have to be educated and housed. This will put a huge strain on our already overstretched resources.

“Also, remember they do have large families and many live outside of the law. They will not be spread over the whole of Kent. They tend to stick together so will congregate where there is

already a community, thus putting the local powers under tremendous pressure.

“We already have a large Roma settlement in north Kent, do we need that expanding?”

But his comments are likely to further inflame tensions between travellers and communities.

Although both the Roma Support Group and officials of the Kent Gypsy Council were unavailable to comment when contacted this week by KoS, David Brown from the Roma Network, which provides assistance to local authorities in the UK, says these comments only compound ‘myths’ that surround the Roma community – not helped by recent reports around Europe which have linked Roma families to alleged child abduction cases in Ireland and Greece.

Although Mr Brown believes there will be an increase in Roma entering the UK, he believes it will only be modest.

He said: “It does not give a true reflection of the Roma community.

“What we don’t want is to bring over all of those myths.

“Once these myths become entrenched, it will become a lot harder to include people. Roma will be a lot less inclined to integrate. Local communities will become a lot less inclined to integrate with them.

“The Roma already here have come from central and eastern Europe where they’ve been excluded and discriminated against for centuries – right up to today.

“There are political parties openly saying Roma should be attacked. It’s no wonder they want to leave and come here.”

Research conducted so far suggests some 200,000 are now living in the UK – with many moving to areas already occupied by other Roma families. In the UK, the areas with heavy populations are London, the Midlands, Yorkshire and the north west.

And, of course, the fact remains that no-one is clear on the scale of immigration from Romania and Bulgaria, when labour restrictions are lifted.

The Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford told KoS recently: “There is, at present, no sound method for working out how many Romanians and Bulgarians will come.

“Nobody knows how many are going to arrive in 2014, or where they will choose to live.

“For Kent, with its many entry points from Europe, like Dover, where migrants arrive in the UK in the first place, it’s understandable

“ The Roma already here have come from central and eastern Europe where they’ve been excluded and discriminated against for centuries. It’s no wonder they want to come here ”

David Brown,
of the Roma Network

KEA

www.kentnews.co.uk



fact or fiction?

up fears of eastern European immigration flood

there are some concerns about the numbers that will stay, but it's impossible to know what will happen.

"The south east is popular with migrants and so is likely to see migration from Romania and Bulgaria. It seems pretty certain it will happen, but we don't know to what extent."

Read his full article here and let us know your views by writing to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS.

■ The series of reports by BBC Radio Kent which follow Hod Birkby to Sofia will air each day this week during the Breakfast Show with John Warnett and Clare McDonnell.

Comment

Why I believe we're set to be swamped by illiterate invasion

Hod Birkby writes for KoS on his recent trip to Bulgaria in light of KCC's report into the potential impact of Bulgarian and Romanians next year

Someone once said "there are statistics, damned statistics and lies", perhaps that is not quite right but you know what I mean. The KCC report is pretty simplistic; how they arrive at their figures stretches the truth somewhat – it certainly stretches the imagination.

Firstly, though, let's look at the situation that I found in Sofia at the beginning of October. As you know I travelled to Sofia with BBC Radio Kent. We met with and interviewed many differing people living and working in Sofia, from Hasan Ademov, minister of labour and social policy, to the demonstrators outside the parliament building.

We spoke to students at Sofia University, who, incidentally, were completing a political science degree conducted in English.

We spoke to Meglana Kuneva, an opposition leader and former EU commissioner.

We talked to the MD of a building firm, an

English ex-pat, who runs a language school, and a junior doctor, an oncologist, who works at Sofia's main hospital. We spoke to a hotelier and members of the staff.

We also had an audience with a business club, who meet regularly to swap ideas, and spoke to people on the street and those working in shops.

So, as you can see, we did a pretty wide ranging trawl of opinions.

These people were intelligent, highly motivated and they wanted only the best for their homeland. Nearly every one of them had no interest in travelling to the UK to work.

Some thought the popular press here were insulting to Bulgarians. Some could even sympathise with the UK being worried about

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the influx of foreigners.

The minister, the MD and the ex-commissioner did not have any worries about losing their labour force or there being a brain drain. Most thought that anyone who wanted to go to the UK was already there.

Speaking to the business community, they are desperate for foreign investment. They have the workforce and entrepreneurial skills to succeed, but badly need western cash. I would rather send some of our foreign aid there than wasting it in Africa and Asia as we have been doing for years.

Bulgaria also has its own immigration problems, there are over 5,000 Syrian refugees now and more are arriving every day. This is putting a real strain on their own services.

Remember, we went to Bulgaria, population 7.5 million. Romania has over 23 million.

Now let's not forget that we only saw people in Sofia, the most affluent area of Bulgaria. We didn't meet anyone from the many villages, or any of the sizeable minority of Roma.

As I have lived in Bulgaria, in a village, I know first hand the deprivation that exists in many of the villages. In some, over 50 per cent of the workforce is unemployed, others work on the land for little more than subsistence wages. And the Roma are at the bottom of the pile; the majority of Bulgarians don't like or trust them.

If we get an influx of immigration after January, we are likely to get the low educated or even illiterate. The



CONTROVERSIAL: UKIP Cllr Hod Birkby fears an influx of Roma in 2014. Right, Dover Port is one of the county's many gateways from Europe



report mentions that Bulgarians and Romanians would be light users of public services. How do they know? They are basing that on present figures.

There is nothing now to stop the Roma peoples from coming, and if they do they will bring with them their own problems. They will have to be educated and housed. This will put a huge strain on our already overstretched resources.

Also, remember they have large families and many live outside of the law.

If we do get an influx of the low educated and/or Roma, they will not be spread over the whole of Kent. They

tend to stick together so will congregate where there is already a community, thus putting the local powers under tremendous pressure. We already have a large Roma settlement in north Kent, do we need that expanding?

In the report there are figures on translation services; why do we do this? Over the last 10 years or so I have lived in three different European countries, I had to hire translators. Nobody translated for me for free. Why do we make it so easy? The council offices near to me in Folkestone have masses of literature in many different languages, all paid for

by the taxpayer.

The report also states that the economic impact will be beneficial to Kent to the tune of £70m-plus.

This makes some staggering assumptions; like they are all going to work, all pay income tax, all pay council tax, obey the law and not increase their birth rate. I'm sorry but to me these figures are just that; figures, plucked out of the sky.

On page 33 of the report it states: "However, the costs associated with [the] migration will be felt in Kent through the impact on the budgets of the public services included in the model. It is therefore possible that a

significant proportion of the economic benefits will accrue at national level, whereas much of the cost will be felt by the local services in Kent."

These should be the headlines to the report.

There will be a strain on all of our services, especially education, health and housing. It will take years for the Roma to become fully integrated, if ever.

If there is an influx of migrants after January 1 it will be from these. Most ethnic Bulgarians don't feel the need to come to the UK.

■ Hod Birkby represents Folkestone West on Kent County Council.

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Profile

While faith in the Lib Dems is at a low, meet the man who still believes



IF THERE'S one thing about Liberal Democrat parliamentary hopeful Jasper Gerard which stands out, it's his dogged determination to see his party succeed in the county he grew up.

Somewhat unfazed, or perhaps choosing not to dwell on the fact the Lib Dems have received an almighty kicking by the electorate in some parts of Kent in recent years, the former Fleet Street journalist remains steadfast in his view that the party is destined for a bright future in what is traditionally a true blue county.

It will be an uphill struggle though, he admits.

"We have to work three times as hard as the other main parties," said Mr Gerard, one of a close-knit group of Lib Dems who put Nick Clegg on the path to triumph during a leadership campaign which would ultimately see him become deputy prime minister. The two remain friends, with Mr Gerard even penning a book about the party leader.

"In somewhere like Kent, the Conservatives probably start off with, say, a 10,000-vote head start.

"It's a bit like being in the 100-metre race and your opponent is already 20 yards down the track before you've even started."

Taking a break from a leaflet drop/door-knocking session in the village of Marden, near Maidstone, (he admits he left his wife and children to

From papers to politics, Jasper Gerard has turned his back on a successful career in journalism to fulfill his dream of taking a Kent seat in Parliament for the Lib Dems and, as **Marijke Cox** found out, he's quietly confident of succeeding

carry on the mammoth task by "bribing them with treats"), the 45-year-old insisted the Lib Dems were making progress.

He explains: "Our party's done a lot of private polling and yes, our national poll rating has taken a hit, but in areas where we are really active our vote is at the same place it was come the last election while the Conservative vote round here, Maidstone and

"I saw the Liberal Democrats as a party that actually wanted to make the country united and help people from all classes and backgrounds"

Jasper Gerard, on reasoning behind joining the Lib Dems

the Weald, has plummeted."

The rise and fall of the Lib Dem's stock will keep political historians busy for years to come.

From being perennial third in national polls, its leader Nick Clegg played a card of difference prior to the 2010 General Election – only to then leap into bed with the Tories to form a coalition. It had the remarkable effect of alienating the party from both the floating voter and some of its own.

A traditional benefactor of the protest vote, the party even let that slip too, with Ukup taking full advantage.

Mr Gerard's sights, however, are firmly set on Westminster and the General Election in 2015 when he will take on Tory MP Helen Grant in the battle for the Maidstone seat.

Pundits had speculated she would be beaten in 2010, but the expected Lib Dem surge never emerged and the Tory vote delivered her to office.

A member of the Lib Dems since he was 15, the father-of-two said it was time for him to step up to the challenge.

Downsizing his house and leaving a successful journalism career be-

hind to pursue his political ambitions full time, Mr Gerard says it is this determination which could see Mrs Grant ousted.

"There's no great secret that where we [the Lib Dems] work, we win," he said.

"We go out, day after day, knocking on doors, sorting out people's problems. A lot of it is very unglamorous, but you do it because you believe in it.

"We're very resilient. When people say the Lib Dems are finished I laugh; I worked for Paddy Ashdown as a research assistant when the Lib Dems had just been formed and the opinion poll rating was said to be too small to even register – we were below the Monster Raving Loony Party.

"People wrote us off then and here we are now in government. I quite like it when people write us off. We just do our talking quietly on the street and we'll see come the election."

It is, however, worth remembering that, despite the opinion polls before the last election, the Lib Dems still finished third, actually losing five seats since the 2005 General Election.

Mr Gerard remains confident and convinced by his party's ideals: "I thought the Tory Party under Margaret Thatcher seemed to be pushing the country very strongly in one direction. Then we had a pretty extreme Labour Party of people like Tony Benn and Arthur Scargill pulling it in the other direction and it just seemed to be leading to class warfare.

"I was really turned off by both and I saw the Liberal Democrats as a party that actually wanted to make the country united and help people from all classes and backgrounds."

Instead of politics, however, he chose to go into journalism leading to a successful career in which he was chief interviewer at The Sunday Times for almost a decade and a columnist on several national newspapers.

In 2011 he wrote The Clegg Coup, a book about the Lib Dems' – most notably Nick Clegg's – rise in recent years.

"I think politics and journalism are very closely related," he said.

"It's about getting ideas across, so standing up for things I believe in.

"But it ultimately got to the point where I thought I've spent 30 years talking about it, it's now about time I actually went and did it.

"The party is where I've wanted it to be for the last 30 years; I'd be pretty

lazy if I turned around and said 'well done guys, I'm just going to carry on my nice life swanning around as a journalist'."

Born in Tenterden, growing up in Sevington near Ashford, moving to the Wye Downs then Goudhurst and now in Chiddingstone, Mr Gerard is a self-confessed romantic about the Kent countryside.

Involved in high-profile campaigns against the destruction of ancient woodland in his targeted constituency, he has come face-to-face with big hitters, such as communities secretary Eric Pickles, to get his message across.

But despite his popularity with those against what he describes as a "builders' charter" under the Tories, can a Lib Dem really triumph in Kent?

After the coalition was formed, some stalwart Lib Dem members jumped ship, disillusioned by what they saw as a partnership with a party of completely different ideals.

The controversial vote on tuition fees which saw Nick Clegg break his pre-election promise to oppose increasing fees only saw the party – and the deputy prime minister – sink further.

"I fully accept the tuition fees vote was a negative for us," said Mr Gerard.

"But Nick Clegg was faced with a very clear choice; David Cameron said there's only so much money.

"You can either have the money for students, so no tuition fee rise, or money for early learning.

"When you've got, for example, a children's centre down here in



“ We’ve [Lib Dems] had to do things we wouldn’t want to if we had a majority, but we don’t have a majority; we have to accept the public’s say on that ”

Jasper Gerard, on compromise Lib Dems have had to make

Marden that Conservatives on Kent County Council are thinking of closing, which has got many children on the at-risk register, you question what will happen to those children.

"I think Nick Clegg made a very courageous decision knowing that he would get absolutely hammered for it politically, but he decided it was more important that money goes into early learning than in tuition.

"The policy itself isn't actually that bad; what we've actually got is effectively a graduate tax and so nobody pays up front; it's only after you graduate, and you only start paying back once you're earning more than

£21,000 a year.

"In an ideal world I'd want everybody to go to university for free, but given the economic situation, I don't think it's a bad policy.

"I think when you actually get out on the doorstep and explain that to people they are quite accepting."

But it didn't seem that way in the wake of the tuition fee debacle, with the electorate voting with their feet.

In 2011, all Lib Dem councillors on Shepway District Council lost their seats and at Canterbury City Council, nine were lost.

In other local elections the party failed to make much, if any, impact.

At the Kent County Council poll in May this year, however, the Lib Dems gained one seat and lost one, leaving them with seven seats at County Hall.

Retaining seats while the Conservatives lost 28 to Ukip was something of a victory, albeit somewhat hollow, for the party.

Mr Gerard said the Lib Dems were making a big difference in government and that it seemed "completely natural" for them to be there.

"We were naïve when we first went into government and perhaps too decent so we wouldn't admit to differences

es at all with the Conservatives because we thought we should show unity, therefore I don't think the public have realised what we've actually done."

But while he is, of course, quick to sing the praises of the party he has dedicated the best part of his life to, there are claims it is still unsteady, with Mr Clegg short of credibility.

"You've got to bear in mind we only have eight per cent of the seats in Parliament," said Mr Gerard.

"We'd love to enact our manifesto in full, but there has to be a compromise. Think Tank did a survey comparing all the manifestos and actually found we had 75 per cent of our manifesto in the coalition agreement.

"Considering we have only less than 10 per cent of the seats I think we've pulled off a blinder.

"We've negotiated lots of our policies into the coalition agreement, but we've had to make compromises.

"We've had to do things we wouldn't want to if we had a majority, but we don't have a majority; we have to accept the public's say on that."

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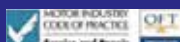
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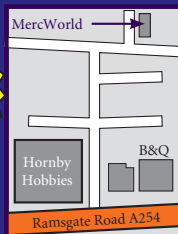
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Despite being a staunch Lib Dem supporter, Mr Gerard said Mr Clegg could have done little else than form a coalition with the Conservatives.

"He said he would try to form a coalition with the party that did best at that election and that happened to be the Tory party.

"Perhaps we did lose some of our protest vote who weren't really in the real world; they have this idealised view of politics and find it unacceptable that we are in a government with the Conservatives.

"But the fact of the matter is the public completely rejected Gordon Brown, so Labour got 29 per cent of the vote and if we'd gone into a coalition with Labour I think a lot of people would have turned around and said 'why the hell are you joining up with this party which the public so clearly rejected'.

"We're not under any pretence that this is a love match.

"We don't love the Conservatives; we're in government with them trying to do a job."

So what of Ukip – a party which is not so much nipping at the Lib Dems' heels as biting chunks off, as it accelerates past the Lib Dems in local elections?

"I find it hilarious when people say Ukip is one of the three main parties and not the Lib Dems anymore," he said.

"If Ukip do quite well at the next election that's fine by me because all it's going to do is split the right of centre vote so it's hurting the Conservatives far more than it is us.

"The more the Conservatives panic about that and start banging on about things like immigration and anti-Europe messages, all that's going to do is leave open the centre

ground for the Lib Dems.

"We can talk about the things most of the electorate are actually interested in, which is jobs, education and the environment."

He added: "Ukip's election campaign was anti-expenses at KCC, yet the first day there they voted with the Tories against the Lib Dems to increase them.

"They claim to be the anti-establishment party but look at them; in Brussels they're supposed to be anti-Europe, but they love claiming their Euro expenses. They're the biggest bunch of hypocrites in politics as far as I'm concerned."

But will Kent really see a Lib Dem seat come the next election? In 2010, the few lasting Labour MPs were wiped off the political map completely by the Tories – only the bravest would put money on a Liberal Democrat securing a place at Westminster, surely?

"I don't want to be arrogant, but if you were a bookmaker I'd say that Helen Grant is still the narrow favourite, but I would say it's going to be pretty close," Mr Gerard said.

"We tend to branch out from a place that we're strong. If we won this seat, Canterbury would be the next target and in Folkestone we're strong as well.

"We've got to realistic about it; we can't get everywhere in one hit."

Whether the Lib Dems can rise through the political ranks to become a strong contender for Kent at Parliament remains to be seen, but Mr Gerard is steadfast in his view that the party is a major player.

"We've gone from being an irrelevance to a big threat."

JASPER GERARD ON...

...Fleet Street

Chief interviewer for The Sunday Times and a columnist for other nationals, it can't be denied Jasper Gerard made his mark in the world of journalism.

Interviewing high-profile celebrities, from Sir Paul McCartney and Bryan Ferry, to covering tragic stories including the murder of seven-year-old Sarah Payne, he said it was privilege to have worked in such an industry.

But in his quest for the Maidstone seat at Westminster, he has left journalism behind.

"I do miss it," he reflects. "What I loved was every day you're doing something new, you're meeting the most incredible people. You interview some of your heroes and some real human inspirations.

"One day you could meet the President of the United States and the next minute it would be a lady who is campaigning for the right to die so it's that contrast that I always found really interesting."

He added: "You also realise that even with the biggest celebrities, they're just people.

"I remember with Paul McCartney it took about a year to set up the interview and his agent said you can't talk about Linda McCartney, you can't talk about John Lennon.

"It was only meant to last about 20 minutes, but it just so happened

we struck it off instantly; the interview went on for three or four hours; within 20 minutes he was coming up with these amazing anecdotes about John and Linda.

"It was just an amazing experience; there you are, sitting with – and I know the term is overused, but in this case you can use it – a living legend."

But in other times it was very different.

"I remember going to interview Sarah Payne's parents shortly after she died and that's just a totally different experience," he said.

"Witnessing their sheer devastation. They lived in a remote part of the countryside in West Sussex and I got a taxi there, but on the way back I just walked back several miles through the cornfields to the station because I felt so traumatised by it.

"It was just the most humbling experience, but at the same time an incredible privilege to be able to talk to people like that."

He also had his chance to speak to politicians from the different parties, including former Tory MP Ann Widdecombe who held the Maidstone seat until 2010.

"She was a real character and I always enjoyed talking to her as well as Alan Clark who was another famous Kentish politician.

"He was always great fun. He used to ring up most mornings with some salacious story."

...Nick Clegg

Jasper knew Nick Clegg when the now-deputy prime minister first got elected to Parliament.

Mr Gerard became one of a group of people to back him in his leadership campaign and, in 2011, wrote a book, The Clegg Coup, about Mr Clegg and the party's rise through the political ranks.

"I'd been involved behind the scenes for a long time; I'd been a speechwriter for Ming Campbell, Charles Kennedy and Nick Clegg.

"I don't want to make out we're bosom buddies, but I knew him before he was party leader.

"He had just been elected to Parliament and I immediately identified him as being a potential leader, somebody who really could give the Lib Dems a positive image. So a group of us really got behind him and I, in a very humble capacity, helped him with his leadership campaign.

"I know he gets a hard time, but it's been a privilege to watch somebody grow in that way; from a junior backbencher to now the deputy prime minister.

"People had written about the transformation of Labour and how David Cameron had transformed the Conservatives, but nobody noticed that very quietly Nick Clegg had actually transformed the Lib Dems into a serious party in government."

Gerard
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Teenager captures tribute photography award

THIS stunning image is the winner of a photography competition set up in the memory of a farmer killed by raiders as he attempted to protect his property.

Sixteen-year-old Christopher Page (above), from Orpington, was named winner of the Julian Gardner Award by research company the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT)

Mr Gardner, 53, a lifelong member of the GWCT, was killed

by raiders at his farm in Robertsbridge – just over the East Sussex border, near Hawkhurst.

The award was established last year and made possible by a donation from the farmer's friends and family, which funded the commissioning of two bronze trophies. Prizes go to photographs which best capture the countryside.

Christopher was just 15 when he took the shot on an estate in Surrey.

He picked up his award last

week from GWCT advisor Peter Thompson (pictured).

The teenager said: "I particularly enjoy photographing landscapes. I love the way it makes you really look at the detail."

Only open to amateur photographers, entries for next year's competition are now being accepted. For details, see www.gwct.org.uk/photocompetition.

Julian Gardner's tragic death happened when he was woken by

a noise at his farm in October 2010.

He armed himself with a shotgun to confront the intruders, but amid the resulting scuffle he was crushed between two vehicles.

Four men appeared at Lewes Crown Court and were jailed last year, guilty of his manslaughter during the burglary. They included brothers Terrence and Marcus Bristow, of Great Chart, near Ashford, Lee Delay of Tunbridge Wells, and Paul Dunn from Cranbrook.



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A quick sale for HG Wells' inspirational seaside home

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

EAGER buyers have snapped up the former home of one of the nation's literary greats, just days after it went on the market.

The five-bedroom house, in Sandgate, near Folkestone, was the former home of HG Wells.

The writer is best known for his science fiction works such as *The Time Machine*, *The Invisible Man* and *War of the Worlds*.

With a garden leading onto the beach, the now fully modernised family home was on the market for just a handful of days before selling for £500,000.

A spokesman at the estate agent selling the property said: "It is now

under offer. We are delighted it has gone so well – but then this is a pretty special property."

HG Wells lived in the house between 1898 and 1901, and was inspired by its spectacular beach views at the end of its 120ft part-walled garden.

It is widely believed it was that view which led to him creating *The Sea Lady*, about a mermaid who comes ashore during Edwardian times.

A blue plaque, from a local history society, marking the house's link to the author is displayed above the door.

Bromley-born in 1866, Wells, was well ahead of his time when it came to abstract consideration of the world of science and where it was heading.

He was known as the 'father of science fiction'.

He died aged 79. He had four children, two from both of his marriages.



STANDING TALL: Literary great HG Wells lived at the property in Sandgate for three years between 1898 and 1901

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It caused death and destruction, but the lasting effects of Monday's storm could leave Kent with a hefty

KENT'S authorities and households have been left counting the cost of St Jude's storm in what could be a bill reaching into the millions.

It was to be the worst storm in more than two decades, a rival to the Great Storm of 1987, with the county bracing itself for what was predicted to leave a trail of destruction.

Rail services were shut down, the QEII Bridge in Dartford and Sheppey Crossing closed, ferries from Dover were cancelled and the county warned to batten down the hatches.

What played out was, for some, a little anticlimatic, with the storm perhaps failing to live up to the catastrophic expectations drummed up by authorities and the media.

For others it only lived up to the hype, battering the coastline, tearing down trees and disrupting key transport networks.

Langdon Bay at Dover saw wind speeds as high as 82mph – the second strongest wind speed recorded across the south of England that day.

Fifty cars left by Fred Olsen cruise passengers at Dover Western Docks were damaged by waves washing over the breakwaters.

Some 1,500 households in Kent were left without power when cables were brought down, and on Wednesday provider UK Power Network admitted there were some who could be without electricity until the end of the week.

The company said it was the biggest storm the country had coped with since 2002.

Kent County Council's highways crews worked through the early hours of Monday – when the storm was at its worst – and throughout the day, clearing more than 100 trees which had fallen across roads.

Commuters were met with flooding on some road networks or found roads impassable due to fallen trees.

Most tragic, however, was the death of 17-year-old Bethany Freeman who was killed when a tree fell onto the mobile home she was sleeping in, in Hever near Edenbridge.

Tributes poured in following the death of the

Premiums set to rise after storm leaves us all counting the cost



NO-GO ZONE: Drivers faced downed trees and flooding during their journeys to work while ferries were cancelled at Dover (top) due to storm

popular Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar pupil (see box on right).

After Monday's clear-up concluded, authorities were left counting the cost of the operation.

And insurance experts said they were expect-

ing a deluge of claims for damage to property.

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) was reluctant to put a figure on how much it would cost, but with the Great Storm of 1987 costing £2 billion in today's money and the 2007 sum-

mer floods costing more than £3bn, it's likely the bill for Britain could also reach into nine figures. Kent's share is set to be in the millions.

Head of property at the ABI, Aidan Kerr, said: "Events like this are exactly what insurance is for.



bill, reports Marijke Cox

"Insurers understand the devastation that weather like this causes and their first priority will be to work as quickly as possible to deal with claims and help customers recover."

A spokeswoman for AXA Insurance told KoS it was virtually impossible at the moment to have a definitive cost for Kent, but warned that some claims could be particularly high.

"It takes a lot of time to work out how much these things cost – it takes people time to put the claims in and also we have to go through third parties," she said.

But while the costs are yet to be counted, calls to insurance firms are already flooding in.

Christine Matthews, operational claims director at AXA Insurance, said call volumes at claims centres were up 100 per cent on the previous week.

"We expect this spike to continue as householders have the opportunity to assess damage to their properties," she said.

"With such high winds, the majority of calls are for damaged roofs – slates, tiles and even chimneys being blown off – and there have been many cases of cars being damaged by falling branches and trees.

"While it will be some time before the full cost of the St Jude storm can be calculated, it is clear a vast swathe of the south east has been impacted."

She said the impact on the economy could be "significant" when also taking into account loss of earnings of people not able to get to work and loss of labour.

While the county recovered from what was, despite an anti-climax for some, the worst storm in two decades, there was one positive to come out of it. Green energy company Ecotricity said the strong winds helped provide "great" generation figures from wind farms across the UK.

And with Kent home of several such energy providers, including 26 turbines on the Romney Marsh and the Kentish Flats offshore wind farm off Herne Bay, it could see a positive output for this often derided power source.

Crushed teenager 'missed beyond measure'

POPULAR Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School pupil Bethany Freeman (pictured) was one of the victims of the St Jude's storm.

The 17-year-old had been sleeping in a mobile home in Lydens Lane in Hever, near Edenbridge, when a tree fell in the severe winds, crushing her in bed.

It is understood she had been sleeping in there while renovations were being carried out on the family home.

Bethany's mother, Tess Pierce,

comforted her as she lay dying.

Speaking after the tragedy, her mother said: "We are absolutely devastated at the loss of my daughter. I would like to thank the emergency services for their tremendous efforts in attempting to save her."

Police were called to the scene at 7.18am on Monday following a report a teenage girl was seriously injured. Keen sportswoman Bethany died at the scene.

A statement on the Tunbridge

Wells Girls' Grammar site said teachers and friends would "miss her beyond measure".

Head Linda Wybar said: "Beth was well-known by staff and girls, universally respected as an individual who always had time for others and gave a huge amount to the school, generously committing her energy and enthusiasm, whatever the need.

"Through her hard work and enthusiasm for sport she will never be forgotten."



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Sat on a star-studded line-up show-casing some of music's finest talent in recent years, the singer-songwriter performed a 10-song set at the Hop Farm Festival; a chance to revisit tracks from past solo albums and a handful of classics from his days in the Velvet Underground.

He would perform only a handful of other shows in the UK prior to his death last Sunday. He was 71.

The performance at the Kent site was far from vintage Lou Reed – he looked disengaged and rather unsteady on his feet.

It would, perhaps, be fitting to report that he drew the biggest crowd of the day – but the reality is halfway through a set which was designed very much for the Lou Reed connoisseur rather than casual observer, the audience started drifting away.

Sandwiched on a bill which included the likes of Iggy Pop and Patti Smith – and headlined that day by Morrissey – he was certainly in good company, but failed to live up to the highest of standards set by the others.

In truth, it was all rather disappointing. But then Lou Reed was a man who could run hot and cold at the very best of times.

He remained, if nothing else, a genuine 'artist' in the true sense of the word – allowing his personal creative muse prominence over the hits-friendly diet a festival audience would perhaps have preferred.

His music rode the waves of a personal life which saw him not so much dabble as delight in a classic – and perhaps somewhat clichéd – rock 'n' roll lifestyle of sex and drugs.

And on that July afternoon two years ago, he looked as though a life of substance-addiction, heavy drinking and smoking was finally taking its toll.

Just this summer he underwent a liver transplant at a clinic in America.

His wife, singer-songwriter Laurie Anderson, said at the time the situation with his health had got "as bad as it could – he was dying".

She – and his legion of fans – had hoped the surgery would ensure many more years of life.

Ironically, it was complications connected to the transplant which resulted in his death last weekend.

But for all the dramas off the stage, he managed to deliver some of music's most memorable highlights.

As frontman of the seminal Velvet Underground, he managed to inspire a generation. Their debut, the Velvet Underground and Nico, was heavily infused by the band's close relationship with pop art's Andy Warhol and his solo albums Transformer and Berlin remain on many an all-time favourite list.

To the wider public, he will perhaps forever be known for his more commercial tracks – the likes of Walk on the Wild Side, Perfect Day and Satellite of Love.

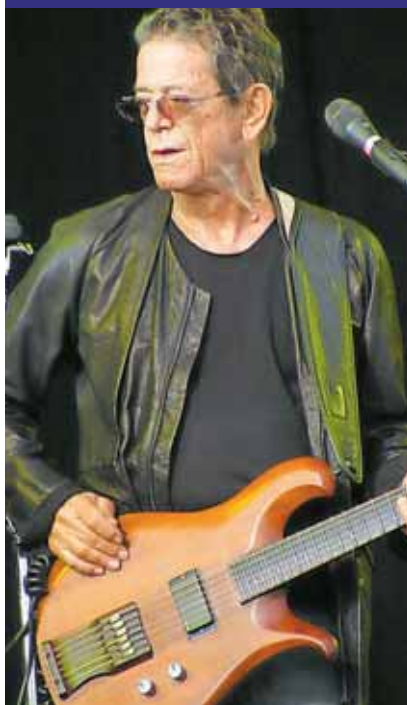
Iggy Pop, who worked with Lou Reed, along with David Bowie on the Transformer album in the early 1970s, and performed an energetic set at the Paddock Wood venue, said



Bidding farewell to the iconic Lou Reed

Chris Britcher reflects on the late-great Lou Reed's only Kent performance in 2011, and how the musician's influential career will ensure his legacy continues to live on

LOU REED'S 2011 HOP FARM SETLIST



Who Loves the Sun
(Velvet Underground)

Senselessly Cruel

Temporary Thing

Ecstasy

Smalltown

Mother
(cover of
John Lennon song)

Sunday Morning
(Velvet Underground)

Femme Fatale
(Velvet Underground)

Waves of Fear

Sweet Jane
(Velvet Underground)

ONE-OFF: Lou Reed during his only Kent show at the Hop Farm
Picture: MAN ALIVE!

this week he was "devastated" at the loss of his close friend.

He said: "I loved Lou. I admired Lou very much. He was a very genuine person. He was always decent to me.

"His talent was so wonderful in my life and it gave me great pleasure and guidance. I am sure that his was a worthwhile life, and one he would have enjoyed had it continued longer."

David Bowie – whose parents met in Tunbridge Wells and who spent many years of his youth in Kent – said simply that Lou Reed was "a master".

Kennie Cotter, a music lecturer at MidKent College, said: "Lou Reed's influence on popular music has been significant.

“It's safe to say that modern-day music lesson's would be very different if there had never been Lou Reed”

Kennie Cotter, MidKent College music lecturer's view on Lou Reed

"Since the early days of the Velvet Underground he helped shape the musical landscape of rock, punk, indie and even electronica, to name but a few styles.

"He is one of the musicians who is most quoted as having influenced his contemporaries, and his presence will be felt for many years to come.

"None of my students were alive during the Velvet Underground's heyday in the 1960s, but they are well aware of the lasting impact they had on some of their favourite modern-day bands.

"They are also familiar with some of Reed's best-known tracks, such as Walk on the Wild Side and Perfect Day, which continue to be enjoyed by millions of people around the world.

"It's safe to say modern-day music lesson's would be very different if there had never been a Lou Reed, which makes his passing all the more difficult for those who appreciated his legacy."

In recent years he recorded an album with Metallica, which played to very mixed reviews.

He also featured on a track by The Killers while ill health forced him to pull out of performing at US festival Coachella earlier this year.

He died at his home in New York on Sunday while "looking at the trees and performing tai chi" said his wife.



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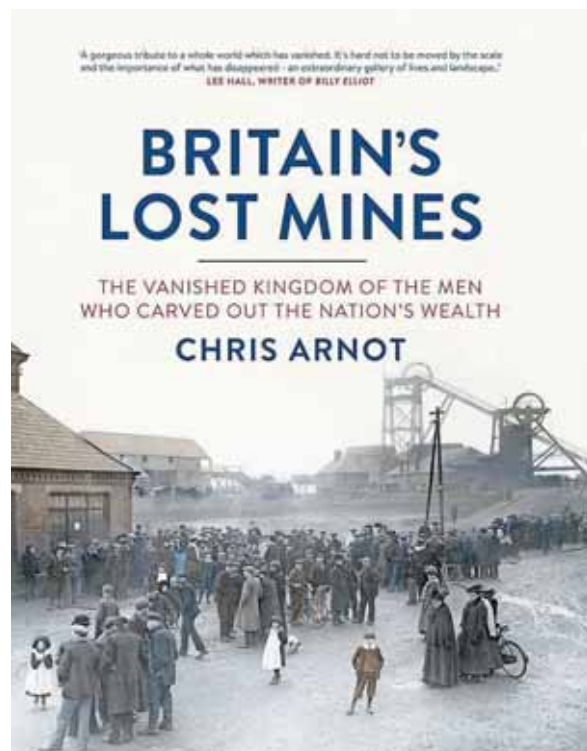
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Author ensures our mining

They worked under some of the worst conditions imaginable under constant threat of injury, but Chris



FOR the younger generation, the thought of Kent being one of the country's key coal mining regions may seem a little far-fetched.

After all, the popular view is the industry was one which thrived in the north of England and Wales; certainly not over the gentle rolling hills of the Garden of England.

Yet for many, the memory of the pits in east Kent remains fresh; the way the industry created employment opportunities, carved out new communities and divided others.

Now a new book looks to cast some light over the county's best known three, Tilmanstone, Snowden and Betteshanger collieries, and many others across the UK.

Britain's Lost Mines, by Chris Arnot, seeks out 30 mines from as far north as Scotland, and covers other mining industries aside from coal.

And he reveals how in recent times, hundreds of thousands of men dug deep underground – sometimes miles out under the sea – for a variety of minerals and ores; from slate in North Wales to iron ore in Devon and Cumbria.

Mr Arnot said: "The more I got in to the book, the more I realised how important it was people are made aware of what these men went through to ensure we could switch on our lights.

"I wanted to capture the voices of these miners where I could. This industry was so important just a single generation ago and has now all but disappeared.

"They had some amazing stories to tell as they lost their lungs, their limbs and their lives providing the rest of the country with the luxuries we enjoy today. I found a lot of people in Kent were not even aware of the mines.

"But, at one time, the men who moved to the county to become miners were shunned by other communities. There were signs up in boarding houses saying 'no miners'.

"There was a lot of animosity towards them and that could be the reason Kent miners became some of the country's most militant.

"Between the two wars, they were greeted like the later West Indian immigrants were in cities like London."

Mt Arnot said the county quickly earned the reputation of having some of the worst mining conditions in Britain.

He added: "Snowdown was probably the deepest in the UK and incredibly hot. It was nicknamed Dante's Inferno.

"The men would work naked apart from their knee-cap protectors and boots, from which they had to empty sweat at regular intervals.

"Or they would wear ladies' briefs which were tighter than a gentleman's

undergarment of the time.

"This is because they were worried their own loose fitting pants could get what they held most precious caught in machinery.

"One man told me he was once stung by a hornet underground.

"They were often weighed down by a lot of equipment, like lights, water, salt tablets. They were miserable conditions.

"But the closure of Daw Mill colliery in Warwickshire this year confirmed the almost total demise of this once-ubiquitous and proud industry, whose pithead baths and winding-wheels have since disappeared under retail parks, football stadia or at best become part of the heritage industry.

"I wanted to ensure this history was not buried forever."

Kent's mines, opened in the early years of the 20th century, would not see the 21st.

During the 1960s, coalfields across the UK began to close, while Margaret Thatcher's battle with the mining unions during the 1980s would accelerate their ultimate demise.

Instead of mining fuels, the mood was to import cheaper from abroad and by 1989 all Kent's coalfields had closed.

• **Britain's Lost Mines** by Chris Arnot. Published by Aurum Press at £25. Available from all good bookshops and Amazon.

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history is not buried forever

Arnot's book pays tribute to the Kent mining communities many knew little about, writes **Chris Murphy**



HARD FACTS: Chris Arnot (above) says Kent's coal mines were among some of the worst to be found in the UK

BIG THREE'S CHEQUERED PAST

TILMANSTONE: Opened in 1906, financial troubles dogged it until the 1930s when a rich seam of coal was found which allowed it to dramatically increase its output.

Prior to that, in 1909, a hoist bucket fell down the shaft, killing three men and destroying pump pipes. As a consequence, water flooded into the pit forcing work to be abandoned for nine months. It was, say historians, evidence the pit suffered from both poor geology and investment.

Extensively modernised after nationalisation in 1947, it was always considered uneconomic by the National Coal Board and eventually closed in 1986

SNOWDOWN: Opened in 1912, its creation had not been without incident. Not long after work began in 1907, the first shaft hit water at 260ft and 22 men drowned.

But it would go on to be the first commercial pit in the county – hitting a rich seam in 1913, and producing 800 tonnes per week.

Strikes, and a closure followed in

the 1920s before it was purchased in 1924 by Pearson & Dorman Long who had started a new colliery at Betteshanger.

Aylesham village was soon built nearby to house 650 families.

It became the county's deepest colliery, well over 3,000 ft, and also the hottest – known as Dante's Inferno by the men. Miners could consume around 24 pints of water in an eight-hour shift. Snowdown closed for good in 1987.

BETTESHANGER: Kent's biggest colliery launched in 1912.

Kent coal burned very hot, making it suitable for the steel industry and valuable enough to pay for a railway line.

Virtually over night, 1,500 miners and their families moved to Deal. The arrival of these 'rough and dirty men with unintelligible accents' horrified many locals.

Betteshanger was never developed to its full potential with restricted quotas and markets holding back production and was Kent's last colliery, closing in 1989.

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PANTO AT THE PAVILION

Dick Whittington
Sunday, 15 December 2013

Enjoy a two course supper in the Pavilion Restaurant, whilst listening to Highworth Choir singing a selection of festive Christmas carols. After supper enjoy the performance of Dick Whittington - suitable for all the family.
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Wednesday, 25 December 2013

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Thursday, 26 December 2013

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MOTHER'S PRIDE: Izzy gave birth to her four cubs in September, but Port Lympne only announced them this week

Wildlife park spot on with birth of rare cheetah cubs



By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

PARK wardens are celebrating the arrival of four new additions to the menagerie at one of the county's leading wildlife parks.

This week Port Lympne, near Hythe, announced the birth of the first cheetah cubs at the park in almost 30 years.

The four cubs were born to southern cheetah Izzy – as she is known to the keepers – back at the beginning of September, but their arrival was only announced on Tuesday.

Rich Barnes, head of large carnivores at the tourist attraction, said: "We are really chuffed that as a first-time mum Izzy's done really well."

"It is quite difficult to breed cheetahs as the process is quite different to other species, so we are really pleased that it has all gone well."

The park is particularly pleased with the breeding success as cheetahs are presently listed as vulnerable – due particularly to a high cub mortality rate.

A spokesman explained: "The process of breeding cheetahs is more complex than other animals as the females show definite mate preference, which makes it hard for

keepers to introduce pairs.

"Breeding cheetahs subsequently requires far more management by the keepers than other species do. It is therefore an extraordinary accomplishment for the breeding to have been successful on its first attempt, due to the difficulties inherent in breeding this species in captivity."

In the wild, cheetahs can be found in isolated pockets across Asia and Africa.

Conservation of the species in the wild is made more challenging due to the scattered distribution of the species. As a result, they also face the threat of habitat loss and fragmentation, as most of the existing protected areas are not presently large enough to ensure their long-term survival.

Izzy arrived at Port Lympne 18 months ago from Ebeltoft in Denmark as part of the park's breeding programme. She was introduced to one of the park's male cheetahs, Sifiso, and the cubs are their first offspring together.

The park prides itself on its conservation credentials and its numerous breeding programmes.

Cheetah can reach up to 70mph across short distances

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Some biologists say they are too inbred to flourish

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Horror as dogs fall to their death from iconic cliffs

Marijke Cox reports on the problem of dog deaths suffered while owners take stroll along the White Cliffs of Dover

BY THEIR very nature, the iconic White Cliffs of Dover will always attract walkers.

With a rare, historic landscape teeming with wildlife and stunning views across the English Channel, it's no wonder the area was recently voted the site of one of the best walks in the country.

But its popularity has bred a tragic problem.

Tasked with preserving the nature of this wild landscape, parts of the cliff are not fenced off by owners National Trust and coastal emergency services are frequently being called out to rescue dogs which have toppled over the edge.

In August, a dog fell to its death off a cliff at St Margaret's Bay, near the Dover Patrol Memorial.

And just two weeks ago, along the coastline from the White Cliffs, at Samphire Hoe – which is not National Trust land – a dog fell from the cliff top and suffered such bad injuries it had to be put down.

But it's the St Margaret's Bay area near Dover which is cause for the most concern.

While Dover Coastguard said the number of such incidents had neither increased nor decreased in recent years, spokesman Ian Born admitted it was a frequent problem.

"It happens all around the coastline, it's a massive issue," he said.

"People walk along the coastal path with their dogs, there are rabbits there and dogs chase them, but rabbits have the advantage of being able to turn very quickly which dogs can't and they end up going over."

"I've had dogs in the past; it doesn't matter how well behaved or well trained they are, they get caught up in a moment of excitement and they're off."

"The only advice I would give is

when people are walking along the coastal path keep dogs on a lead."

He said Dover Coastguard gets involved in such incidents to help prevent injury to dog owners or onlookers.

"Cliffs are not places to be scrambling down to try and get to a dog," he said.

"Coastal paths are subject to the elements. With heavy rain they can become slippery."

In September this year, Rhys Clark, 27, died after falling off cliffs at Southend, near Bridgend in Wales, while trying to reach his dog which had fallen onto a cliff ledge.

His girlfriend Ania Galanska, 25, also fell and suffered multiple injuries.

Some fear it's only a matter of time before similar tragedies happen on the Kent coastline.

Jean Hendry, from Folkestone, a regular visitor to the National Trust site in Dover, said she had spoken to the warden asking for a bigger sign telling walkers to keep dogs on leads.

"It happens all the time, there's a steady stream of dogs falling off the top," she said.

"I was talking to somebody the other day in the area when we saw the coastguard out by St Margaret's

“Dogs chase rabbits and other wildlife and with no fences they go off the top. There needs to be a bigger sign warning people to keep dogs on the lead”

Jean Hendry, regular visitor to National Trust site in Dover



DANGER: Dover's White Cliffs were voted one of the country's best walks, but could be lethal to a high-spirited dog

Bay – she said 'it's always dogs'.

"Dogs chase rabbits and other wildlife and with no fences they go off the top. There needs to be a bigger sign warning people to keep their dogs on the lead."

"It's worrying because the owner might try and help the dog or look over and fall themselves."

Many of the UK's cliff tops are not fenced off due to expense and the constant erosion of cliff edges over time and seasons.

Visitor experience manager at the White Cliffs of Dover, Gareth Wiltshire, said the National Trust welcomed 260,000 people each year to walk along the cliff tops, including lots of dog walkers.

"As this is a wild landscape, we follow the guidance from Natural England and ask dog walkers to keep their animals under close control," he said.

"We have a number of signs at key locations reminding people of the cliff edge, and have recently added new signage around the area of the patrol memorial."

"There are also alternative fenced areas for dog walkers which are marked on our map and all our staff are happy to point these out."

RSPCA concern over rise in number of abandoned pets

DESPERATE pet owners are dumping their cats outside an RSPCA centre in Kent despite being told there is no room.

Staff at the centre in Leybourne, near Maidstone, even spotted a young black and white cat clinging to a tree in the car park.

It was friendly and mewing loudly and, RSPCA staff said, it was reaching out to be rescued.

Days later, two adult cats were left in a cardboard box on the driveway to the centre.

One was a pregnant tabby and white cat wearing a red glittery elasticated collar. Both were riddled with fleas.

Sally Jones, deputy manager at the RSPCA's Leybourne Animal Centre, said: "They fit the description of two cats a man tried to bring into the centre

earlier in the week.

"We explained that we were unable to take the cats due to our prioritisation of animals that have been removed from poor welfare conditions by our inspectors."

"The owner was given a list of other places to try."

The RSPCA branch in Medway has seen the same problem.

A black adult female cat was dumped in a box in the dustbin area and the charity also took in two 10-week-old kittens found in a soaked cardboard box on Hook Meadow playing fields in Walderslade.

"I do not know why people think it is acceptable to dump animals like this, we are so close to busy roads it makes you wonder how many we do not find," said Ms Jones.

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CONTROVERSIAL: An artist's impression of the development at Whitstable. Below, as it looks now

Battle lines drawn at harbour

As hostilities resume over a seaside town's development **Joe Bill** meets both sides in the ongoing row

SIX years ago, the residents of a popular seaside town rebelled.

It may not have quite been pitchforks and burning torches, but the normally genteel folk of Whitstable rose, almost as one, in opposition to ambitious plans to redevelop the town's popular harbour.

There were petitions and publicity campaigns and you could barely walk along a street without being confronted by posters decrying the proposals. It was an impressive show of force against the local authority – Canterbury City Council – which owns the land.

The plans had called for the harbour buildings to be replaced with shops, a hotel, an aquarium and a pub – a move which would fundamentally alter what is perhaps the jewel in the town's crown.

Pressure forced the plans to be shelved, swiftly followed by the economic downturn which ensured no developer was brave enough to make an investment during a time of such uncertainty.

But with the market slowly recovering, and Whitstable's continuing ability to act as a honeypot to day-trippers showing no sign of slowing, fresh plans are on the table.

Lines have once again been drawn in the sand.

The city council says it wants to develop some 2,250 square metres of the harbour – which will include wiping out the existing 'village' of small stores operating out of huts. Set up several years ago to fill the void after the last plans fell through, these have become a hugely popular part of the town's offering.

The businessman behind the huts says the new plans are "ridiculous". He had been pushing the council for a new five-year contract with a prom-



ise of a new site if the land was sold.

Now, however, the council says the traders can only have a six-month deal – which means the huts will close by next September.

Whitstable's Harbour Board, which is made up of councillors and independent members, is advertising for retail, leisure and commercial businesses interested in the site.

If all goes to plan, the renovation work will be completed by May 2015. Chairman of the harbour board is city councillor Pat Todd.

He explained: "We have looked at redevelopment of the south quay before, but there was public concern and then the economic downturn hit. "Now we are emerging from that, it is the right time to look at it again."

"These opportunities are a key part of the board's desire to support new businesses that boost tourism and the local economy. Our aim is to create a thriving south quay for the long term."

The proposals include the development of a four-storey building ideally to house restaurants or retail on the lower floors with commercial units on the upper floors.

Residents, however, are concerned.

The harbour's very charm lies in its rather rough and ready appearance. It remains a working quay lined by shellfish firms on one side, many of them traditional, family-run operations, and an industrial aggregate operation dealing in the materials for asphalt on the other.

Sat between them is the quay itself; fishing boats bobbing gently on the swell and a string of buildings which are perhaps the town's single most popular tourist attractions.

From the fish market to a fish restaurant, and the village of small huts, it is rare to visit at the weekend and the crowds not be significant.

During the annual Whitstable Oyster Festival thousands descend, slurping oysters served on a bed of ice, a tub of cockles or opening a paper-wrapped portion of fish and chips.

Major redevelopment, the argument goes, could change its very essence.

The development is set to include the existing shed on the centre of the south quay, the large former engine shed, next to the Harbour Master's office at the eastern end of the south quay, and a site next to the RNLI sta-

“We have small business enterprises who have started up here, but the council have chosen to go against that and we will probably end up with a KFC”

Stuart Heaver,
founder of Kentish Trader Ltd

tion at the western end of the south quay close to the harbour's main entrance.

The largest site is currently occupied by Whitstable Harbour Village, which has 33 small traders with start-up businesses on a site on short-term lease from the council.

The trading huts are owned by Kentish Trader Ltd, founded by Stuart Heaver in 2007.

Mr Heaver said he was "very upset" by the decision and described the council's plans to oust local traders in favour of a big development as "ridiculous". He said: "We have traders and small business enterprises who have started up here, but the council has chosen to go against that and we will probably end up with a KFC. That is our livelihood gone. That is what feeds our families."

"We always knew the harbour village was going to be closed for a period while maintenance was completed on the quay but now it looks as if it won't be reopening afterwards at all."

"On the planning documents you can see the lines for development go right through where we are based. We have pleaded, we had support

from the local chamber of commerce, community groups and our MP, but the council has made its decision."

Mr Heaver was also left frustrated as an application for a Coastal Communities Fund of £86,000 to create 10 new businesses run by local entrepreneurs will now have to be scrapped as it was reliant on the harbour village being handed a five-year lease.

The council says a new short-term lease was offered to Mr Heaver but with "break clauses" meaning traders could be moved off the site to make way for development at any time.

Cllr Todd said: "A new lease was recently offered for five years with similar conditions but this was unacceptable to Mr Heaver, who wanted a longer lease arrangement with the guarantee of an alternate site should we require the site for redevelopment."

"The harbour board has been unable to accommodate this request as we do not have another site identified."

"The board will do all it can to ensure the continued economic viability of the harbour and the interests of the community in doing so and sincerely hopes valued and successful initiatives such as the harbour village can continue to be accommodated."

But Cllr Todd believes now is the "right time" to move forward with development, adding: "In its 2010 strategic plan, the harbour board made clear that it would like to facilitate any development opportunities that come forward for the harbour as a whole or in part."

"Although the recession has meant no viable schemes have come forward, the economy is improving and the harbour board anticipates there may now be renewed interest in the development potential."

■ What do you think? Share your views by writing to The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford TN25 6SS.



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Sad salute as former dockyard chief sets sail on his final voyage

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

TRIBUTES were paid this week to one of the UK's most senior Naval officers and a former chairman of one of the country's most important historic sites.

Admiral Sir Nicholas Hunt GCB LVO DL died peacefully at his home in Surrey after a short illness. He was 82.

A former Commander-in-Chief Fleet between 1985 up to his retirement in 1987, he was responsible for the operation, resourcing and training of the ships, submarines and aircraft, and personnel, of the Royal Navy, reporting only to the First Sea Lord – professional head of the Navy.

He was also the father to health minister Jeremy Hunt.

But he was best known in Kent as the chairman of the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust – a role he fulfilled for eight years.

During his time with the organisation – a charity which looks after the 18th century part of the site and which forms the site of the visitor attraction – he oversaw a period of extensive redevelopment.

Among many of the dockyard's historic buildings being repaired, he oversaw the £3 million restoration of HMS Gannet.

Built at Sheerness in 1878, she was part of Queen Victoria's Royal Navy, designed to patrol the world's oceans and protecting British interests and trade. She is listed as part of the UK's core collection of historic ships.

The future of HMS Cavalier, the Navy's last operational World War Two destroyer, was also secured and now acts as a memorial to the 143 British destroyers and over 11,000 men lost at sea during the war.

A spokesman for the trust said: "It



ROYAL SEAL: Former chairman Sir Nicholas Hunt (pictured right) talks to Prince Charles during the opening of Chatham Dockyard's library in 2004



was with great sadness we learned of his passing.

"Sir Nicholas was a much-loved and highly effective chairman who led the trust through a period of major renewal and development which saw many of the dockyard's historic buildings repaired and brought back into use.

"Sir Nicholas joined the trust at the end of 1997, following the death of Sir

William Staveley, and he retired in January 2005.

"He arrived at the start of the £17m capital development programme and led the organisation through a period of great growth and development based on essential support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Medway Council, English Heritage and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

"He was instrumental in ensuring

the dockyard is now recognised as a thriving community in its own right as well as a successful tourist destination, leading museum and education resource.

"Following his retirement, he retained a keen interest in the work of the trust and the development of the dockyard. He will be much missed and we offer our deepest sympathy to Lady Hunt and his family."

Sir Nicholas was also deputy managing director at Eurotunnel from 1987 to 1989.

He died last Friday, October 25. He leaves behind his wife, Meriel, children Jeremy, Sarah, Charles and Susanna and eight grandchildren.

His funeral takes place on Thursday in his home town of Shere. A thanksgiving service, will take place at Guildford Cathedral.



OPENING: Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence unveiled new panels at the Chatham memorial

www.kentnews.co.uk

Naval memorial takes on board new way of bringing to life those killed

VICE Admiral Sir Tim Laurence unveiled a modern way of remembering those who have fallen on Thursday, when he attended a special ceremony at the Chatham Naval Memorial.

The vice admiral – husband of Princess Anne and a former Sevenoaks School pupil – unveiled information panels which combine smartphone technology, along with traditional techniques. It is hoped they will engage a new generation to learn more about those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

He appeared in his role as the Royal Naval Commissioner with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

He toured the memorial and met with family members of some of those remembered at the site.

The panels at Chatham are among 500 the commission is installing worldwide as part of an initiative to provide more information to the public during the centenary of World War One.

More than 100 of the panels are being erected in the UK, to provide information about the many thousands of Commonwealth war dead who are buried or commemorated here.

Each of the panels carries information about the cemetery or memorial and a QR (Quick Response) code which, when scanned with a smartphone, provides access to further information, including the personal stories of some of the casualties buried or commemorated at that particular location.

Sir Tim said: "The Commonwealth War Graves Commission believes this initiative will help visitors gain an understanding of why these memorials exist, why it is important to visit them and maintain them, and who these men and women were.

"It will help bring home to all of us the great sacrifice made by the servicemen and women who went away to fight in two world wars.

"It is a powerful way to combine traditional forms of remembrance, with new technology, to ensure we never forget."

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintains the graves and memorials of the 1.7 million Commonwealth servicemen and women who died during the two world wars.

It also holds and updates an extensive and accessible records archive.

The Chatham Naval Memorial commemorates 8,517 sailors of the first and 10,098 of the second world wars who have no known grave.

Josie Iles, the Mayor of Medway, said: "Medway has a unique connection with the Royal Navy through Chatham Historic Dockyard.

"I am pleased the Commonwealth War Graves Commission has used the very latest communication technology to bring to life the stories of those service people from Medway who gave their lives during the two world wars."

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'Unprecedented pressure' is threatening our landscapes

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

URGENT calls are being made for the Government to strengthen its National Planning Policy Framework to help protect the county's most treasured countryside.

In a major report released this week, the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) gathered evidence suggesting there is "unprecedented pressure" on precious landscape, including Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Environmentalists from the organisation warned that the current planning framework fails to protect such areas and instead has resulted in housing, energy, transport and tourism development.

The report uses the example of the Kent Downs AONB in Dover, where a controversial planning application for 521 houses, a 90-apartment retirement village and associated facilities at Great Farthingloe Farm has been given the nod by planners at Dover District Council. A 130-bed hotel and conference centre will also be developed at the nearby Western Heights.

Great Farthingloe Farm lies within the Kent Downs AONB and the local authority's decision to approve such a large development on the land is thought to be without precedent.

Dover council chiefs say it will help



boost the area's economy, despite concerns from Protect Kent – the county's branch of CPRE – Natural England and Kent Downs' AONB unit.

The case is being used as evidence in the CPRE's report, calling on the Government to rethink its planning policy.

The organisation is also pushing for a parliamentary inquiry into the pressures facing the country's most precious countryside.

CPRE chief executive Shaun Spiers said: "On paper, designated landscapes have the highest level of protection in planning policy.

"But as our report shows, there is growing pressure to approve disastrous development. It is just far too easy for developers to get their way at fatal cost to our precious landscapes.

"Our report provides further clear evidence that the current planning framework is not nearly as robust as

it needs to be. We need to strengthen planning policies before it's too late.

"There is a need for more housing and other development and no-one wants to embalm the countryside. But development should be carefully planned and guided into the most suitable locations.

"If they are to remain national treasures, our most beautiful landscapes require stronger protection. We will only devalue our land if we

pursue growth 'at any cost'."

But while environmentalists are up in arms over such contentious development, Dover council is determined to push ahead with plans for Farthingloe.

Head of inward investment, Tim Ingleton, said: "This application represents a once in a lifetime opportunity to deliver a transformational and comprehensive regeneration package on the western side of Dover.

"The application – clearly being one of the most complex that the council has considered – raised many issues that were given extensive consideration as part of the process, leading to the resolution to grant permission.

"It was felt the substantial benefits to be delivered and enabled by the application outweighed any concerns highlighted.

"Moreover, there was major support for the application from the business, commercial and public sectors together with the community.

"As far as development at Farthingloe affecting Britain's countryside, the proposed extension of development beyond that already permitted represents the loss of some 0.1 per cent of AONB in the Dover district.

"Against this, as part of a range of comprehensive benefits, it creates the foundations to reverse the decline at the nationally important Western Heights, which continues to sit on the English Heritage at risk register."

Our countryside must not be lost

As the CPRE steps up a national campaign to protect the UK's rural areas **Jamie Weir**, the spokesman for local branch Protect Kent, explains why success is so important

WE ALL know that, in Kent, our countryside is under attack from development fairly regularly.

Developers are always trying to build on beautiful, untouched greenfield sites. However, now we have something new to worry about.

When the Government launched its National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) document, it assured everyone that designated countryside such as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) would be safeguarded against development and that they would not be built on unless there was an incredibly good reason for this to happen.

In fact, within the NPPF it states quite clearly that "great weight should be given to conserving

landscape and scenic beauty in... Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty".

These assurances have been reiterated many times by both the Prime Minister and other senior Government ministers.

They made these guarantees because of the nature of these special areas. AONBs are designated as such because they are particularly beautiful chunks of countryside of national importance; unspoiled landscapes which add real value to people's lives and should therefore be conserved and enhanced.

However, while the politicians have been talking, the reality is that these unique and precious landscapes have been under

increasing pressure from developers who are keen to play up the possibility of economic growth if development is allowed.

In Kent, this has already led to one very large development being given planning permission at the foot of the Kent Downs AONB in Western Heights and Farthingloe, despite significant local opposition.

The Government's growth agenda, which has fostered a culture that all development is good development, has meant that proposals to build within AONBs have been given even more chance to succeed.

What is clear to the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), is that if the tide of development proposals is not stemmed in these designated and protected landscapes, one day in the future these

naturally beautiful landscapes will not exist in their current form.

Whilst we understand that Kent does need new housing, it is crucial that it is the right type and in the correct location.

Our most highly valued and designated landscapes such as the Kent Downs AONB or High Weald AONB are not the correct location for large scale developments which will degrade or destroy them.

We must seek better solutions and we must demand protection from uninhibited growth, otherwise one day Kent's beautiful countryside will be significantly poorer for no real gain.

■ For more information, see www.protectkent.org.uk.

You can also sign the CPRE's national Countryside Charter via its website.



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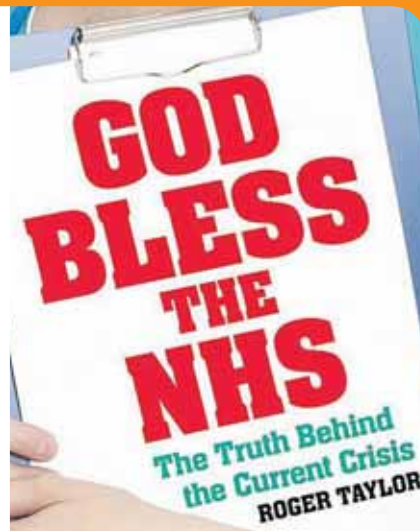
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CAMPAIGNING FOR THE VOTE

Kate Parry Frye's SUFFRAGE DIARY



WHAT'S ON: From left: Explorer Doug Scott, Kate Parry Frye on votes for women and a discussion on the NHS

Festival is proving to be a bestseller for bookworms

Literary event offers a diverse range of subjects to draw readers into the Creative Quarter, **Greg Miles** reports

FOLKESTONE'S ambitious Creative Quarter is set to get another boost next month with the return of Folkestone Book Festival.

The event has equally ambitious plans of its own to put the town on the map and this year promises to re-engage the public with literature and art through talks, debates and readings from visiting authors, adventurers and musicians.

The bold approach is being wholeheartedly championed by curator of the event Geraldine D'Amico. This will be her second year at the reins, having taken over shortly before the 2012 festival. She is hoping to create a somewhat different event which is not just about promoting the latest releases but giving something of real interest to bookworms.

Folkestone, with its resurgence in arts and culture, could be, she feels, the new Brighton and offers a lot more than the wider perception of the town.

Originally from France, she often travelled past on the way to the Channel Tunnel but was surprised at what lay beyond the M20 when she took up the post.

"It's something that really shocked me when I realised," she

said. "I had driven past it so many times without being aware of what a wonderful place it is. I have really fallen in love with it. It's such a pity you have all that traffic just a mile away going past on the motorway.

"A lot of people have not heard about the changes, they say they used to come a long time ago. I see

“I had driven past Folkestone so many times without being aware of what a wonderful place it is. I have really fallen in love with it”

Folkestone as the new Brighton. It's a bit like Brighton used to be 20 years ago."

Mrs D'Amico has plenty of experience when it comes to organising festivals, having been behind Jewish Book Week in London for the last seven years.

She originally started out as an English teacher in her home country, before moving into translating books and then

teaching English and French in Italy, England and America at Harvard and Babson College.

She also spent five years as cultural attache at the French Embassy and two years in publishing at Random House.

Last year she had a short time to prepare for the event, but now feels she is able to put her own mark on it after a year of preparation.

"Last year the person who had been organising it was on maternity leave and decided to extend it at the last minute," she said. "They needed someone to come in quickly and look after the programme.

"I still had enough time to do my own thing," she said. "What I like this year though is I have had more time to meet more people – but still not as much as I would like.

"It's about trying to get people to come to the Creative Quarter and realise how interesting it is.

"I want people to come down and tackle issues like what world are we living in and the state of the NHS.

"I would like to make it more international and to make it more interactive with more people

HIGHLIGHTS

1913: The World Before the Great War

Saturday, November 16, 12.30pm, Quarterhouse
A talk from Charles Emmerson about his book told through the eyes of 23 cities in Europe before the war. Admission £8.50.

A Mountaineer's Story

Monday, November 18, 6.30pm, Quarterhouse
Illustrated talk by adventurer Doug Scott, the first Englishman to climb Mount Everest. Admission £9.50.

Cornelia Parker in conversation

Wednesday, November 20, 6.30pm, Quarterhouse
Sculptor of Folkestone's Mermaid Cornelia Parker talks about her life and work. Admission £7.50.

Beautiful Sentence

Thursday, Nov 21, 7pm, Georges House Gallery
A talk and documentary about the power of poetry in prison with spoken word poet Leah Thorn. £7.

From Promising Soldier to Rebel

Saturday, November 23, 11am, Quarterhouse
Ex-soldier Joe Glenton discusses what made him turn against the war. Admission £7.50.

Big Brother

Saturday, November 23, 6pm, Quarterhouse
Author of We Need To Talk About Kevin, Lionel Shriver, discusses her new book. Admission £9.50.

For tickets visit www.folkestonebookfest.com or call 01303 858500.

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« Continued from page 43

engaging with the festival."

With its many independent shops that flow down to the harbour from the high street, the Creative Quarter has a natural community spirit which Mrs D'Amico is hoping to harness.

"What I'm trying to do is build on the support of the community," she said. "When I walk from the station to the Creative Quarter I'm always struck by the fact that when you walk through the higher part of the town you could be anywhere. The shops there are not interested in promoting local events. But then when you get to the Creative Quarter you're in a very special place."

The festival, which runs from November 15-24, is not just about the hard sell of the latest release, Mrs D'Amico is keen to make it more engaging.

The opening weekend involves two nights of Shakespeare's As You Like It performed at the Quarterhouse.

There are plenty of healthy debates to take part in, including the reform of the NHS, what atheists can learn from religion, and conflict from the view of a former soldier turned anti-war campaigner.

Adventure and history are also prevalent, with a talk from Doug Scott, the first Englishman to scale Mount Everest in 1975, and from former frontman of Carter the Unstoppable Sex Machine, Jim Bob, who will be answering questions about his life and reading from his second novel Driving Jarvis Ham.

There is of course room for interest in new books, with one of the

highlights perhaps coming from a talk with Orange Prize-winning author Lionel Shriver about her new title Big Brother.

For those wanting to take a hands-on approach there are a number of creative writing courses taking place throughout the event.

"There are around 250 book festivals around the UK so some of the very big names are extremely choosy and will only go to the big venues," said Mrs D'Amico. "I would like people to be a bit more curious. Even though they might not think they are a big name, or have not heard or read about them, I would like people to learn."

"I really love doing it. It's a really exciting project for me because it's different from a lot of the other festivals that just bring in whoever has had the most recent book published."

"I personally put a lot of thinking into who I invite."

Mrs D'Amico is a traditionalist when it comes to how she gets her book fix, but she has no reservations about technology playing a part in getting youngsters reading.

"I still read paper," she said. "I don't have an e-reader and have no desire to have one."

"Future generations will develop different ways of reading. When you play a computer game you do a lot of reading and making up your own stories. In a way young people read a lot more than 40 years ago because of texting as well."

For more information visit www.folkestonebookfest.com or call 01303 858500.

The festival runs from November 15-24.



WELL READ: Geraldine D'Amico has drawn names such as Lionel Shriver, right, to the festival



HISTORY OF THE FESTIVAL

Folkestone held a book, literary or literature festival of some kind annually from 1980-2001.

They were small events that took place at the Metropole Art Galleries, but when Nick Ewbank took over as director of what became the Creative Foundation in 2001 it spread its wings.

The festival received a big boost with support from Saga which attracted the likes of Alan Bennett, Beryl Bainbridge, William Hague and Jacqueline Wilson.

When Saga was sold in 2006 it meant the end of the sponsorship of the festival. However, it was not the end as it continued to attract

star names for the new 10-day festival which had expanded into The Grand, while other events were held in the Leas Cliff Hall.

Since 2009 it has found a permanent home in the Quarterhouse in Tontine Street under the new name of Folkestone Book Festival.



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Twin towns' ties run far deeper than just a 50th anniversary

Situated in Germany's Eifel national park, the picturesque town of Bad Münstereifel is a popular destination for holidaymakers and boasts strong links with one Kent town. **Greg Miles** investigates.



THEY both nestle in the rolling hills of beautiful countryside, but that is where the similarities end when comparing Ashford and Bad Münstereifel.

For a start, the hills in eastern Germany are more akin to mountains rather than the North Downs around the Kent town.

The picturesque spot in the middle of the Eifel national park is surrounded by pine-coated, rolling mountains, offering some of the most beautiful landscapes in the country.

The spa town in the district of Euskirchen in the Eifel mountain range is just over the border from Belgium and has been twinned with Ashford since 1964.

Its association with Ashford aside, Bad Münstereifel has always been a popular spot for holidaymakers from Britain, as well as with Germans looking for a relaxing weekend away,

with the town's spa-related hotels and outdoor adventures in the national park attracting visitors.

Although the formal twinning will be celebrating its 50th anniversary next year, the association stretches much further back than that.

Their history dates back to the First World War, when British troops occupied the town in 1919 under the command of a Major J Goode.

It was his brother-in-law, John Wiles, who later became Mayor of New Romney in 1946.

Six years after Wiles's appointment, he arranged a goodwill journey to the Rhineland, with Sir Winston Churchill as patron of the trip, and the mayors of Dover, Sandwich, Hythe and Deal all present among the delegation.

That visit, which took in many German towns including Bad Münstereifel, was the start of the German-British youth exchange.

The idea was to give young people

from both nations the chance to get to know each other while staying with host families on three-week exchanges.

The bond with Ashford only grew when John Wiles resigned as New Romney mayor and moved there, which meant that most of the youngsters involved in the exchange came from Ashford. Wiles was later declared an honorary citizen of Bad Münstereifel in 1961.

Two years later, the partnership went some way to becoming official, with 300 German and British young people attending a reception in Ashford and the formal twinning agreement signed on August 26, 1964.

Ever since, the exchanges have carried on, with gestures including a massive block of stone originally from the Eifel unveiled in Ashford's town centre.

Ferdinand Lethert, the long-time

Continued on page 48 »



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STUNNING HILL-TOP VIEWS: Bad Münstereifel was officially twinned with Ashford in 1964 but its first association with the Kent town dates back to 1919

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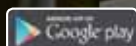
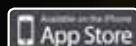
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president of the youth exchange, was awarded for his work with an OBE from Queen Elizabeth II and was also made an honorary citizen of Ashford in 1986.

Bad Münstereifel is in Germany but is much closer than you might imagine, given Ashford's proximity to the Channel Tunnel and Dover's ferry services.

With traffic on your side, the journey is driveable in just over five hours, and if you want to break up the journey there are plenty of stop-offs to be had on the way, with Brussels, Bruges and Ghent well placed on the route through Belgium.

The town itself is steeped in history, with its medieval ramparts and walls dating back to the 13th century. It certainly has all the hallmarks of what you'd imagine 'old Germany' to be like.

Unfortunately, the castle, Burg Bad Münstereifel, that accompanies the well-preserved city walls was badly damaged by the troops of King Louis XIV of France in 1689 – it now houses a restaurant.

Timber-framed buildings stack up along the high street, with quirky shops making for interesting viewing. There are also several cake shops selling the typical mammoth portions of delicious local makes and bakes.

There is even a red postbox and phone box to make you feel at home if you're travelling from these shores.

Being in the middle of the Eifel mountain range, there is no shortage of natural springs, which led to Münstereifel becoming a spa town in



1926 and taking on the Bad (bath in German) part of its name in 1976. There is also the beautiful River Erft, which runs through the middle of it.

Finally, Bad Münstereifel is home to bleached-haired German pop legend Heino, who has owned a restaurant under his own name in the town for some years.

Bad Münstereifel: facts

- It has a population of 18,000 and sits at an altitude of 1,424ft
- It was previously a host town of the unofficial Nintendo fans' convention
- Former key incomes came from wool, breweries and tanneries
- Napoleon secularised the monasteries during the early 1800s

Time Out Top Ten

1 Central Theatre, Chatham

Sunday, November 10
Phone: 01634 338338

The Stylistics: Enjoy all their harmonic hits from the early 1970s. Tickets from £19.50.

2 Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

Tuesday, November 5
Phone: 01892 530613

Ha Ha Holmes! and The Hound of The Baskervilles: Comedy version featuring Joe Pasquale. Tickets £20.

3 The Tower Theatre, Shorncliffe

Thursday, November 14
Phone: 01303 260330

Jeff Hooper: Vocalist with the Syd Lawrence Orchestra now with his own trio. Tickets £10.

4 Theatre Royal Margate

Saturday, November 9
Phone: 01843 292795
www.theatreroyalargate.com

Chris Packham – Wild Night Out: Wildlife adventurer looks at interesting species. Tickets £17.50.

5 The Orchard, Dartford

Monday, November 11
Phone: 01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

Al Murray: The Pub Landlord is back with his new show *The Only Way is Epic*. Tickets £26.50.

6 Hazlitt, Maidstone

Friday, November 8
Phone: 01622 758611
www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk

Sounds of the Glenn Miller Era: Enjoy the big-band sound with the Nick Ross Orchestra. Tickets £18.

7 Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

Thursday, November 7
Phone: 01303 858500
www.leascliffhall.co.uk

Sensational 60's Experience: Music from *The Marmalade*, *Herman's Hermits*, *Chris Farlowe* and more.

8 The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

Sunday, November 10
www.marlowetheatre.com

An Evening With Mandy Winters: Intimate performance from cabaret singer. Starts 7.30pm. Tickets £13.

9 Winter Gardens, Margate

Saturday, November 2
Phone: 01843 296111
www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

The Editors: Indie group touring with new album *The Weight Of Your Love*. Tickets £20.

10 Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

Saturday, November 9
www.trinitytheatre.net

Kent Chorus, The Armed Man: Choir performance of Karl Jenkins's work. Tickets from £5.





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APPROVED CONTRACTOR DOMESTIC INSTALLER



Sweet taste of success tinged with slight regret

World-renowned chocolatier Damian Allsop's move to give up his Tunbridge Wells base and live in Spain has turned out remarkably well, says **Greg Miles**

BRITS moving to Spain is nothing new, hundreds do it each year, but there is a certain ex-pat who has made the move with no intention of retiring in the sun.

World-renowned chocolatier Damian Allsop has upped sticks from his Tunbridge Wells base and moved to Girona, near Barcelona, for a better quality of life and to continue his passion in a more economical environment.

It's proved a move worth making with the 43-year-old linking up with the current world number one restaurant El Celler de Can Roca.

After decades of hard graft, including being barked at by Gordon Ramsay, he is now able to truly enjoy work with a small team which he runs with his partner Anna Hernandez Piferrer.

He said: "It was for a variety of reasons: the planets seemed to align for us. It was all-consuming in England. Things were going well, but we didn't have the quality of life. That was something we wanted to address. We were working seven days a week.

"The last couple of years have been pretty tough with the way people have been cutting back. It has been a lot of work to achieve the same results.

"We have always felt the growth model wasn't for us. Our business is our life. We don't have an exit plan to leave it or sell out. We were burning out and needed to change the way we worked."

It was a difficult decision to leave their base on the outskirts of Tunbridge Wells after three years, but it was one that had to be made.

"We were just getting going really in Tunbridge Wells," he said. "It was a disappointment for me to leave really. We were just starting to get the fruits of our investment. It was the perfect location for us."

It is not the end of their association with the county however as they are still distributing products through a company based in Lamberhurst.

Mr Allsop is a well-known figure in the industry for his revolutionary water ganaches.

Typically, filled chocolates are made with a mixture of chocolate and cream to make the ganache.

However, he has developed a way of using water instead which cuts out the dairy content, impacting on the way the chocolate tastes. It also helps bring out the flavour as it melts quicker in the mouth.

No stranger to working as a chef in Michelin-star restaurants himself, and working with them

through his business, it is no surprise he teamed up with the three-Michelin star El Celler de Can Roca in Spain.

This year it was voted the world's number one restaurant, eclipsing its ranking of world number two last year, a pretty good addition to Mr Allsop's CV.

He has been commissioned to create the traditional almondy Spanish Christmas treat, turron, for

“Nobody in my family is a cook. My mother is one of the worst cooks I know – and she knows that”

the restaurant, with three different creations each to match the personalities of the three brothers who run El Celler de Can Roca. They will be on sale in the restaurant and its new shop in Girona.

It is a privileged position which Mr Allsop is not taking for granted.

"It's one of those things that very few people can do," he said. "This is the sweet time; I have worked hard for 25 years taking abuse from people like Gordon Ramsay. You go through those things then so that

now is the time where you have the ability to make things happen."

Being a chef was not always an obvious choice growing up as Mr Allsop had a lack of inspiration from his mother.

"Nobody in my family is a cook," he said. "My mother is one of the worst cooks I know – and she knows that. I grew up on tinned food and egg, chips and beans.

"When it came to learning about food and gastronomy I was quite wide-eyed about it when I started as a professional cook at 16.

"I got to France and worked in places in Paris and learnt how to eat and live with food – experience it."

Other interests of his, mechanics and maths, may sound a big step away from the kitchen, but the principles of construction and deconstruction are the same when it comes to creating his chocolate masterpieces.

Mr Allsop said: "I was into engines when I was a child. My stepfather repaired stationary engines and we showed them at rallies – that was my hobby. I would break them down and put them back together. I liked maths as well which I suppose helps when it comes to putting food together."

■ For more information visit www.damianallsop.com.

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TV star to host food and drink awards evening

AFTER great anticipation we can reveal the last instalment of finalists for The Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards.

Last month, we announced the opening half of those businesses you have nominated for our new competition celebrating the best of food and drink around the county.

Now, here are the final four categories and nominees who will be bidding to be crowned winners at our awards' night at the Tudor Park Hotel in Bearsted, Maidstone, on November 14.

From cheesemakers to butchers and farmers' markets there is a great selection on our shortlist for each of the 12 categories.

Those nominees are in for an exciting evening at the awards which will be hosted by a familiar face from television.

Popular BBC South East



HOST: Kaddy Lee-Preston

weather presenter, Tunbridge Wells' Kaddy Lee-Preston, will be doing the honours on the night by introducing the awards and revealing the winners.

After the ceremony, guests are in for more entertainment from Josh James Dubovie.

The 23-year-old singer took on the hopes of a nation in 2010, after winning through to represent England at the Eurovision Song Contest in Norway with his Pete Waterman-produced song That Sounds Good To Me.

Since then he has rebranded himself as Josh James, forging a career as a recording artist as well as performing in theatre productions.

Proceedings will take place in the venue's Thurnham Suite and include a three-course meal prepared by the hotel's executive head chef Tom Biddle.

Unfortunately, tickets for the event are now sold out. We will print the full results after the event.



FINAL SHORTLISTS



Butcher of the Year

Haywards Butchers, Tonbridge

Dadds Family Butcher, Westgate-on-Sea

Fullers Butchers, Tunbridge Wells

Farmers' Market of the Year

The Goods Shed, Canterbury

Tonbridge Farmers' Market

Cranbrook Farmers' Market

Newcomer of the Year

The Corner House, Minster

The Oyster Pearl, Whitstable

East Coast Dining Room, Whitstable

Food or Drink Producer of the Year

Nip from the Hip, Maidstone

Winterdale Cheesemakers, Wrotham

Kent Fine Foods, Gillingham

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I've just found my way to somewhere rather special

The Compasses Inn

Location: Crundale

Reviewed by **MARIJKE COX**

Battered by the storm and ready to embrace autumn in all its glory, anything other than a hideaway in the heart of the country with a blazing fire to boot would not suffice.

Tucked away in the village of Crundale, between Canterbury and Ashford, The Compasses Inn offered the perfect setting.

Highly recommended by a colleague, the historic pub was not that long ago taken over by Rob Taylor, former chef of the renowned

Samphire restaurant in Whitstable. And it seems his magic touch is working here.

Immediately won over by the warm, friendly atmosphere and typically countrified décor – dried hops, fire burning in huge fireplace, candles and so on – my guest and I settled down to what was, on a quick glance at the menu, a pub dinner with a difference.

The menu boasts much more than your traditional pub grub, with a selection of diverse and mouth-watering starters, including sweet

pickled herrings with celeriac coleslaw, spiced crab pasties with sorrel mayo and fennel soup with Wye bakery sourdough.

We shared the seared pigeon breast with apples and blackberries and the crispy ham hock spring roll with cider and sage dip.

The pigeon was the winner, flavour bursting from every element on the plate and the meat just melt-in-the-mouth delicious. The spring roll was great, too, the cider and sage dip being particularly good.

For its main-course offerings, the menu again did not disappoint.

I chose the butternut squash and Kentish blue bluebell pudding, a dish that, while looking slightly unusual,

delivered that homely, warm taste experience with the flavour of strong blue cheese running through it.

My guest opted for old-spot pork belly with merguez sausage and mash, which was presented beautifully with flavours to match.

If I had to find something to criticise in the meal, it would be the bread and dripping, which I felt lacked flavour.

Despite being full and feeling ready to curl up in front of the big fireplace and fall asleep, the dessert menu was just too tempting to turn down.

I chose the selection of cheeses, which included Farmhouse Ashmore Cheddar, Two Hoots blue cheese, goat's curd and Burwash rind.

My guest went for a lemon drizzle cake with raspberry ripple ice-cream, which he wolfed down before I had a chance to try – testament to the flavour, I'd imagine.

The Compasses is one of a number of venues offering a country-pub experience combined with traditional-meets-contemporary dishes.

Some miss the mark; this one hits the nail right on the proverbial head. Great atmosphere, even better food and a place to which I shall return. The bill came to £69.

■ **The Compasses Inn**
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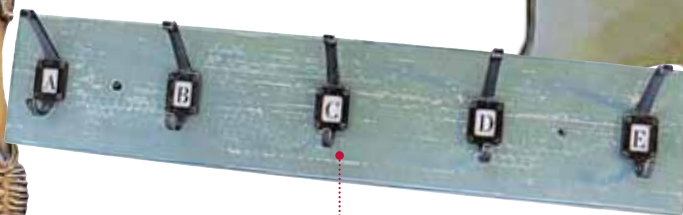


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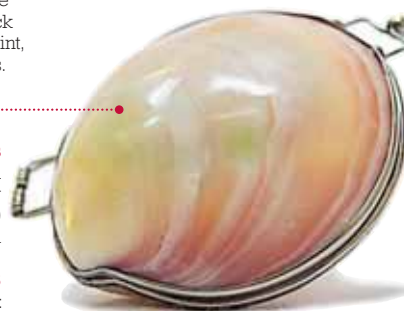
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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Simply flying in the face of reason

I, LIKE most others I believe, fail to see how a new airport in north Kent will lead to an improvement to the environment and to the standard of living, as claimed by Clive Lawrence in his letter (KoS, 20.10).

Surely, such a development will lead to the exact opposite.

John Hill, Strood

Lib Dems putting the country first

ONCE again I have to respond to the inaccuracies of Chris Hudson-Goole (Letters, 20.10).

The Liberal Democrats have not sold out on proportional representation. We secured a referendum in this parliament for the alternative vote system.

Unfortunately, we were let down by the opportunism of Labour leader Ed Miliband, who failed to endorse the aims of this referendum, no doubt fearful of a reformed and fairer voting system for his prospects in future general elections.

Coalitions and alliances are quite usual in most European countries, and if we have another hung parliament in 2015, it may well be that once again we have a broader and more balanced government which better reflects the wider public interest.

Dr Alan Bullion, Tunbridge Wells

Vile trade is all our responsibility

THANK you for your major coverage given to live exports – it was worth its weight in gold (KoS 13.10).

This vile trade continues because it is fuelled by vested interests.

While big business hides in the wings, a small voice murmurs "money is the root of all evil".

As blind eyes and deaf ears take charge, compassion flies out through the window.

This is not about animal rights, it is human responsibility.

Mary McNulty, Brenchley

Leaders' blind to animal suffering

CALL me a cynic, but I do not believe we can always rely on the Government of the day to do what is inherently right.

For instance, the live export tragedy. We are being told over and over again they cannot stop this

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Attempting to paper over shale gas cracks

IT IS interesting to note anyone who opposes fracking is labelled an 'environmentalist' or part of 'rent-a-crowd' when politicians attempt to discredit them.

The claim that "there have been no recorded instances anywhere in the world of fracking causing contamination of water supplies" is a sweeping generalisation, one echoed by the industry itself which relies on this kind of misinformation being believed by an unsuspecting public.

However, do some research into the coal seam gas developments in the Tara area of New South Wales, Australia, and there are some disturbing findings.

Here, drilling for gas has caused massive escapes of methane, often in areas quite separate from the actual drilling that has been popular over there.

Methane pollutes water and makes it undrinkable.

The country depends on its Great Artesian Basin, the only reliable source of freshwater through much of inland Australia.

But so much of it has been pumped out by the fracking companies that many farms, often four or five generations old, have been made unviable due to lack of water.

Just think – does Kent have lots of spare water? Do people in Kent run farms?

In any industry it is no bad thing to have strict regulation, however people who have looked at drilling for unconventional gas – including fracking – feel the industry cannot be regulated because it is inherently unsafe.

One problem in particular is the radioactive waste produced which is costly and tricky to dispose of.

Then there is the problem when well casings fail (though the industry obviously disputes this).

This is the problem and even with current technology it can't be fixed.

These problems are additional to the amount of methane emitted and the general degradation and toxification of our environment.

Unfortunately, wishing for unconventional shale/coal-bed methane gas to reduce bills will not make it happen.

And to judge by the maps published of the new round of permits for 2014, not that many areas of England, Wales and Northern Ireland will escape exploration if the industry gets its way, which I firmly hope it does not.

C Raffan, Deal

trade because of the EU. This, however, is incorrect – it merely requires an old law to be amended.

Farmers obviously want the best prices for their animals, but they will always get good prices for British meat – isn't it the best in the world, or so we are to believe?

That aside, farmers do not rule this country, we are ruled democratically, or that is also what we have been led to believe.

The majority of people in this country do not condone animal suffering, and live export causes immense suffering, no-one can doubt that.

The powers that be were not even interested in doing something during the long heatwave we experienced this summer.

The conditions for those animals travelling must have been horrific.

Surely, we do not condone this deliberate cruelty. Surely we should, with all conscience, export meat not sentient animals.

Pam Ward, via email

Politicians are leaving us in debt

OFFICIAL figures state there are 600,000 immigrants dependent on social security and foreign health 'tourists' are costing the NHS £2 billion a year.

Figures which are set to rise in a country which already has a national debt of £1.2 trillion.

Watching programs like Question Time, where not only the politicians, but also the audience decry anybody who dares speak against yet more uncontrolled immigration, you have to have wonder why they care so little about the 1.9 million indigenous population without employment, and the people already here who can't get health care, because the NHS is short of money.

They also must care little about the 600,000 unemployed immigrants already here.

Our politicians and the EU must be suffering from a collective madness if they imagine this country can continue its massive borrowing to fund the greed and stupidity of the rest of the world, while forces that wish us ill, pile on the emotional pressure.

Our gutless career politicians, are just storing up serious problems for the future.

Even at five per cent interest, our national debt must cost £60 billion per annum, being £1,000 for each person in the UK, enough to fund most of what the Government tells us they can't afford...sheer madness.

Phil Granger, West Malling

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline "Inspiring Communities".

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles: **Kent on Sunday will:**

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between

- 7) news, comment and advertising.
- 8) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 9) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
- 10) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
- 11) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.



Russell Gardens, Kearsney

by **Kevin Mudge-Wood** from Dover

If your picture is printed on this page you will receive an any duration **Dover-Calais return crossing for a car and up to five passengers, valid for a year**, courtesy of...



To see your photograph printed email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk, or post it to **Archant KOS Media, Images of Kent, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS**. Be sure to include your name, address and a contact telephone number. Unfortunately we cannot return any prints, and please do not send negatives. Note: all digital images must be no less than 200dpi.

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Women Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT2 To : 80098

(T&C's below)

SLIM N/S female, 54, working, reliable, easy going, likes nature, animals, seeks nice male companion. 50-64 for country/seaside walks and meals out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405745

JACQUELINE 79 widow, easy going, good listener, not slim or neurotic. OHAC, Sevenoaks, lonely would like gentleman's company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405533

SUSIE, seeks fifty shades of grey with guy any age but must be discreet, call and I will explain why. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 407321

ATTRACTIVE female, 53, N/S, 5ft 8ins, looking for similar male, 50-55 who loves countryside, animals and is easygoing. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405421

AMANDA 44 blonde, blue eyed, very leggy, fun to be with, honest and caring seeking kind, considerate honest gent 74-79 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405315

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, Military/professional/gent of high calibre. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405707

SELSEA 43, driver, own home, N/S, 5ft 8ins, slim, dark hair, green eyes, confident, outgoing, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 40-48. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408405

HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383

ROSA, 27yrs, seductive foreign beauty. Seeks no strings discreet fun, any area. Call to hear my desires. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1960 Box 408093

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, seeks male, 65-75 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403275

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406779

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019

TO REPLY TO ADS WITH TEXT
REPLY2 FOLLOWED BY THE
BOX NUMBER TO 80098
i.e. TEXT: REPLY2 123456 to 80098

PICK AN ADVERT AND
MAKE A DATE TODAY!

DEILAH 49, likes animals, blonde, blue eyes, seeking older gent, late 70's who is kind and willing to care about me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403769

59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large build, dog lover, easygoing, GSOH, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403071

JOYCE 83, widow, WLTm gent with GSOH for days out, friendship, companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273

TEXT: CHAT2 TO: 80098
START CHATTING TODAY!
*TEXT: 80098 Cost £1.50/msg received, for full t&cs see below

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521

CARIBBEAN female, 50, honest, caring, thoughtful, seeking male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408231

SUE 58, likes walks, meals out, socialising, seeks large male, 6ft plus for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389135

Hi I am Sally a single 28yr old female, pretty, size 8-10 with a GSOH and fun to be with looking for similar lonely male for mutual companionship, dates and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407951

CANDY 42, blonde, voluptuous, blue eyes, GSOH, bubbly, seeks older male, 75 plus, kind, caring and honest. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391012

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852

LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101

60YR old black female, sociable, seeks romantic, articulate white male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402523

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391

CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2ins, likes animals, walks, travel, gardening, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402067

STEPHANIE 29, 5ft 5ins, large built single mum of two, GSOH, loving, honest, bubbly, romantic seeking similar male/dad. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407613

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. Thanet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217

DIANE average sort of lady seeking an average sort of man who will love me for who I am, appreciate my life, consider my interests and want to get to know me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402265

LISA tall slim blonde divorced mum of one, 39yrs OHAC, employed, wicked SOH, WLTm male who like me loves life, for good nights in/out and quality times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402259

SEMI retired N/S ex dancer, many interests, honest, attractive, GSOH, seeks gent, 65 plus to put spark back into life and be soul mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378279

TERRI young at heart, fit, caring, N/S, 70's, many interests, Taurus, seeks kind, N/S gent, 65-70 with GSOH to share life and LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390671

I am Eve 31yrs, slim with dark hair and blue eyes looking for a fun loving, genuine male for possible relationship. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407601

JULIE big blue eyed blonde size 12 glamorous granny, 40's, likes a good film with a nice wine, walking, meals out, seaside, seeking young at heart male 40-55yrs Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393475

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably older, N/S male with own car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537

CARING female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, seeks male, 60-70 for friendship, maybe more. Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369593

LISA 44, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, nice personality, trustworthy, kind, likes cinema, nights in, walks, music, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404751

SUE 65, slim, animal lover, 5ft, blonde, likes socialising, meals out, theatre, countryside, happy go lucky, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405767

ROSS very broadminded smoker looking for lots of fun and laughs with similar genuine, loving, kind male. Single dad welcome, age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407929

JAN 54, petite, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394382

SOPHIA beautiful, slim, sophisticated, loves living life to the full, enjoys many interests, seeks generous businessman who would appreciate a sensual woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407467

JACKIE young looking slim attractive sexy 34yr old lonely girl looking for Mr Right who wants to get to know me and wants a good time doing it. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407205

KIA 42, blonde, blue eyed, shapely, kind, caring, honest, seeks male, 70-80. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391807

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805

DENISE attractive single mum, OHAC, likes animals, socialising, cinema, meals in/out, WLTm genuine romantic for possible relationship. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407447

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT2 To : 80098

(T&C's below)

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Medway area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408343

RETIRED male, 66, 6ft 2ins, easy going, GSOH, loyal, loves pets, meals out, life, seeks lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407317

MALE 67, professional, fit, 5ft 10ins, medium build, reliable, tactile, likes most things, seeks slim lady, let's go! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407855

STEVE 61, OHAC, seeking relationship, outdoor type, homey, wanting mutual good relationship with sexy woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407835

CHRIS 52, slim, looking for female, 25-38, slim, 5ft 2ins plus for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408575

DAVE 50, likes holidays, meals out, socialising, easy going, seeks female 40 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408541

ADAM 48, single dad, bored, seeking fun and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408421

DAVE 50, seeks female of similar age for meals out, holidays etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408415

SUE Attractive girly female with mad sense of humour, curvy, lovely and feminine, WLTm large built manly man to fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407493

MARIA 30 dark hair/eyed size 12, attractive, outgoing, easily pleased, likes nights in/out, seeking romantic loving guy with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407301

KATIE slim racy female, likes cars, horses, dogs looking for tall experienced male who knows how to make me happy and please me. Daytime meets preferable. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407045

LISA 5ft 2ins, 43, average build plus a few pounds, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for man for dates. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401421

47YR old female, fun loving, green eyes, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 47-52 with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401287

LONG dark winters days are on their way, seeking male to help female 66 to share life with Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407649

PAULINE pretty professional blonde, great curves, life and soul of any party, seeks tall, well built male with passion for life to get together with. Looks/unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339087

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388372

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easygoing, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589

DOG lover short of British slim petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1 relationship and start something new. Smoker welcome, age immaterial. Tunbridge Wells area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417

ANTHONY 48, athletic, enjoys country walks, seeks youthful female for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407355

71YR old romantic, 6ft, likes life, socialising, reading, strong tea, dogs, smoker but house trained. Seeks mature lady needing TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407277

TALL friendly, very light hearted, single 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR, mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407147

BLACK male, looking for 1-2-1 relationship with laid back, understanding female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406221

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405519

KEVIN 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857

DAVE 45, 6ft, large build, ginger hair, green eyes, caring, OHAC, likes laugh, cinema, pubs, restaurants, walks, shopping, music, dvds, gardening, animals, seeks female of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405451

35YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, easy going, likes music, films, reading, walks, looking for female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405941

DISCREET kind man, 48, gentle, loving, genuine, seeking lady. Whitstable. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406439

SWANSEA man, 51, 5ft 6ins, slim, seeks slim female for nights in/out, company, walks, talks and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402033

40 something Gemini 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, varied outdoor interests, seeks similar outgoing female, 30-45 for dates and LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404535

MALE 50, GSOH, looking for soul mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387485

TALL slim male, early 40's, seeks loving female, 29-39 to share the nice things in life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407065

PROFESSIONAL 45yr old male, one son, bored of the same thing, seeks lady for possible romance. Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386234

CHRIS 68, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271

55YR old male, average looks, GSOH, looking to meet similar lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408227

JAMIE 6ft 1ins, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 40-50, easy going for no strings fun, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408051

CANTERBURY mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim-medium build female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697

SEXY fireman, looking for love and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407883

STEVE 64, active, likes fishing, swimming, karaoke, honest, genuine, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405717

LIGHT hearted 58yr old male, 6ft, blue eyes, slim, lively, active, seeks pretty woman 28-50 for fun times. Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393567

PROFESSIONAL romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195

SLIM 67yr old male, fit, loving, 5ft 7ins, blue eyes, independent, sociable, easygoing, enjoys usual, seeks honest lady to share it all with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401245

ALEC 57, likes keep fit, cycling, GSOH, seeks lady, 40 plus for fitness and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339463

CANTERBURY cyclist 50's, fit, seeks female of similar age and interests for uncomplicated fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394569



FUN fit, 60yr old male, seeks older, well built female for no strings discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404971

RICHARD divorced, 61, N/S, likes classic cars, looking to meet nice lady for meals out, days out, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406349

BRIAN fun loving, easygoing, likes meals out, nights in, dvds, seeks loving female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381449

BARRY 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for winning, dining and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787

VINCENT 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377397

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719

GARY 48, 6ft, well built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175

BARRY 49, 6ft, well built, easygoing, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401401

JOHN 40, likes nights out, pubs, clubs, walks, countryside, GSOH, N/S, dad of one, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390119

YOUNG 64yr old fit, active male, seeks similar female for outings and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365642

VIC mid 60's medium build male, active, N/S, likes countryside, DIY, seeks compatible female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405085

51YR old male, dark hair, 6ft, N/S, good looking, likes finer things in life, seeks lady for fun times and TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399867

MIKE from Canterbury 57, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim female, 21-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379673

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for ltr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013

PROFESSIONAL romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195

SLIM 67yr old male, fit, loving, 5ft 7ins, blue eyes, independent, sociable, easygoing, enjoys usual, seeks honest lady to share it all with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401245

ALEC 57, likes keep fit, cycling, GSOH, seeks lady, 40 plus for fitness and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339463

CANTERBURY cyclist 50's, fit, seeks female of similar age and interests for uncomplicated fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394569

CHRIS from Folkestone, 68yrs young widower, N/S, 5ft 9ins, OHAC, likes country music, rock n roll, WLTm N/S female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405079

52YR old male, honest, reliable, seeks slim female, 40-48 for friendship, romance, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377747

WARM honest, caring man, 5ft 9ins, 60's, fit, likes dancing, meals out, seeks romantic encounter with kind lady, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388547

MATURE man, enjoys life, socialising, N/S, solvent, OHAC, seeks attractive lady, any age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388808

MALE 5ft 9ins, N/S, smart appearance, GSOH, nice smile, 60's, likes dancing, singing, art, theatre, seeks female, 60-70 with nice eyes and generous nature. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391790

RONALD 65 plus, 5ft 9ins, slim, sociable, GSOH, tactile, N/S, many interests, seeking lady dance partner to learn ballroom and Latin. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403211

FUN fit, friendly 50yr old male, medium build, seeking female for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400045

DENNIS 53yrs retired police officer living in Kent, WLTm female for mutual fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404201

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, OHAC, independent, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Children/animals welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404537

OUTGOING professional, fun loving, entertaining male, seeking warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405633

ADRIAN young 59, likes travel, sports, seeks fun, attractive lady 40-50's. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399355

SEAMUS 5ft 10ins, black hair, green eyes, average build, likes travel, weekends away, animal lover, varied interests, N/S, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401279

KEVIN

If you have a business story, we would like to hear from you. Telephone on **01303 817100** or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

For more business visit www.businessforkent.co.uk

» See this month's Business and Professional Life section inside...

KENT LIFE



Export business offering SMEs potential to grow

With the county's proximity to Europe there is a host of opportunities for our small firms to exploit, something Export Week is keen to promote, says **Joe Bill**

FIRMS looking to boost their bottom line have the chance to learn more this month with a series of seminars focused on export markets.

And the nationwide push to help companies will begin in Maidstone as Export Week gets under way.

The week-long string of events begins at the Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel on Monday, November 11.

It, along with events elsewhere in the country, is aimed at getting small businesses to start exploring the potential of exporting or to expand their existing overseas activity.

Export Week is being run by UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) and follows a similar event in May focused on high growth markets.

It is supported by Kent International Business, the initiative set up to help support the county's companies looking to expand into foreign markets.

At the Maidstone event, leading business and finance journalist Declan Curry will host a seminar examining 'exporting for growth'.

There will also be a talk from HSBC chief economist Mark Berrisford-Smith, who will provide an up-to-the-minute view on current and future international business opportunities and trends.

Regional director for UKTI in the south east Lewis Scott said: 'It's our job to ensure all opportunities for export are being exploited by businesses across the region and this

week of events is a prime example of this in action.

"Economic research consistently shows companies which export to any country, in any financial climate, perform better than those who don't."

And with Kent providing the gateway to the Continent, there is a host of opportunities sat quite literally on our doorstep which Mr Scott is keen to see small and medium-sized businesses exploit.

He added: "Knowledge of your market and knowledge of the practicalities of exporting are crucial tools in your company's toolbox."

"Kent is a thriving county packed full of innovative and industrious small and medium firms.

"Combined with great transport links there is no reason why local firms should not be selling more overseas so I hope this event will help firms see the opportunities out there."

The day will also allow businesses to meet with the key players in the county's export support network including members of Kent County Council (KCC), Enterprise Europe Network, UK Export Finance and Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce.

Attendees will also be able to book themselves into workshops taking place at the event.

One offers advice on 'effective communications with international

Continued on page 56 »

Training, courses & careers

Cooking up a fresh recipe for future apprentice success

THE food and drink industry has this week launched a new apprenticeship scheme it claims will cook up a "more robust pipeline of talent" for the industry while enabling employers to simplify the apprenticeship system.

In collaboration with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Apprenticeship Trailblazer initiative builds on the success of the Food and Drink Federation's (FDF) Apprenticeship Pledge.

It will focus on developing maintenance engineers.

Recognising the need to increase the number of appren-

ticeships available, the FDF pledge led to a quadrupling of apprenticeships started in England and Scotland last year.

Business minister Matthew Hancock said: "I am very pleased the food and drink industry has chosen to be at the forefront of our apprenticeship reforms.

"This is a great opportunity to be a trailblazer, building on existing successes to lay the foundations for rigorous and easily understood apprenticeships that will help Britain compete in the global race.

"Our aim is that the new apprenticeships will focus squarely on rigorous training for



INGREDIENTS: Developing the right skills for the food industry

learners and simplicity of use for large and small employers, who will be in the driving seat of apprenticeships in future.

"This will mean our apprenticeship system will respond better to the needs of the modern economy."

Melanie Leech, director general at FDF, added: "Whilst most

maintenance engineer apprentices spend their first year off-site studying general engineering, many of these generic engineering skills are not used in the food and drink manufacturing industry. We are thrilled to create a targeted programme where tomorrow's engineers develop the necessary skills to excel in our industry."

Your chance to check out college

MIDKENT College will be holding a number of open days for prospective students in November.

Visitors will be able to find out more about courses, view facilities, pick up the latest course guides and meet with members of staff.

The events take place at the Medway campus on November 7 (6-8.30pm); at the Medway campus skills fair on November 9 (10am-2pm) and at the Maidstone campus on November 12 (5.30-8pm).

Historic chance to boost skills

The Guild of Specialist Engineers has set up an apprenticeship programme which will see many more young people in the UK working with historic transport.

Chairman Eddie Hoare said: "This is a major step forward in ensuring that young people are encouraged to enter the world of classic cars and other historic engineering."

» What is your business doing to help our young people? If you have a good news story, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call **01303 817100**.

Calling all job-seekers!

Are you looking for employment opportunities in Kent?

www.GradsKent.com has been launched to help graduates and students find appropriate work. Whether you're looking for permanent or temporary work, gap year jobs, internships or years in industry, we'll have something to suit you.

GradsKent is a not-for-profit project being operated by Kent County Council and our dedicated team is committed to finding your dream job. Register online so that you can access our bank of jobs, and we'll let you know when vacancies are posted that suit your background and interests. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with a member of the team.

Do you have an opportunity suitable for a graduate?

GradsKent offers employers the opportunity to market their vacancies flexibly and cost effectively. Contact the team to hear about our competitive range of advertising packages and how we can help you to find the most suitable candidates for your vacancy.



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customers" where industry expert Sarah Carroll of Grow Global will show visitors how to plan an international online strategy.

A second workshop, 'export financing', has expert Andrea Walker advising on the support available to exporters.

The final workshop will offer the basics of developing a marketing research project for future export plans.

KCC's trade development manager Steve Samson, who leads the Kent International Business programme, said it is keen to promote business gatherings in the county so that experts can share knowledge and continue to boost the economy.

He said: "We are convinced there is a lot of untapped export potential in Kent and this event, along with a range of other trade-support initiatives, will help local firms to better understand the opportunities in overseas markets and how to go about accessing them."

Latest HMRC stats have revealed the south east is the biggest regional exporter in the UK, with the total value of exports from the first half of the year at £22.6 billion.



HIT: South east UK's biggest regional exporter

Business development manager for Kent In-victa Chamber of Commerce, Tudor Price, added: "The chamber has seen a significant uplift in the number of customers requiring export certification and the UK has been sending some unusual goods to far flung places.

"Anecdotally the businesses we deal with have seen new markets, new customers and greater support emerging over the last six months and now is a good time to look beyond our borders. Exporting for Growth is a must attend event for those looking for new sales."

■ For details see www.ukti.gov.uk

Firms banking on alternative measures

AN INCREASING number of firms in the south east are seeking alternative forms of funding, underlining the issues of securing cash from traditional bank lenders.

According to Bibby Financial Services, some 56 per cent of firms it polled said in the last six months they had applied elsewhere for finance, compared to just 26 per cent who pursued bank lending.

According to the poll, 19 per cent rely on private equity, 31 per cent use invoice finance – where outstanding invoices are sold to

access immediate funds, but only at a percentage of the total amount owed, or asset-backed funding – and one in 10 opt for overdrafts.

Four per cent use loans while 10 per cent depend on invoice auction websites – where outstanding invoices are sold to bidders in a similar method to invoice finance.

Chris Hardy from Bibby said: "There should be no 'one-size-fits-all' approach to business finance so it's encouraging to see firms shopping around and embracing finance beyond traditional loans and overdrafts."



Workplace stress can be company's biggest headache

As National Stress Awareness Day approaches this Wednesday, **Dr Kate Baker** MA PhD, health and well-being specialist for Investors in People South, explains the value of having healthy employees...

WITH employees facing increasing pressures to be effective at work, while also striving to maintain a quality home and social life, it's no surprise stress is the number one cause of long-term absence, according to the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development's 2012 Managing Absence survey.

Every year, 140 million working days are lost to sickness absence and employers pay sick pay and associated costs of £9 billion a year.

Other research indicates the UK works some of the longest hours in Europe, therefore impacting on people's work-life balance and their ability to cope with workplace stress.

The classic cases of sickness and absenteeism can, of course, often be outcomes for staff who feel anxious and demotivated, but who are not 'ill'.

The concept of 'presenteeism' has also been more recently acknowledged as having a direct impact on the productivity of an organisation.

The member of staff who is physically present at work but is not engaging fully will not be making the contribution they should to their organisation. This will not only have an impact on the quality and quantity of the work they produce, but can also have a ripple effect within their team, and more widely in the organisation, as other people feel that not everyone is 'pulling their weight'.

Presenteeism can also lead to people coming to work when they are genuinely sick because of the fear of not being seen as a committed employee. This can have a knock-on effect across an organisation, as not only does the environment become un-

healthy, but other people feel obliged to do the same when they are genuinely ill.

One of the most important and cost-free ways of ensuring organisations consider the physical and mental well-being of their employees is to ensure supportive and effective management at all levels.

Awareness, encouragement and expressions of thanks are free. Feeling valued and appreciated provides a key extrinsic motivator which, although not a financial reward, can often have as much, if not more, impact on a person's wellbeing.

Likewise, the introduction of flexible working or flexi-time can also help employees to balance their work and personal lives more effectively and reduce the need to take time off.

Managing health in the workplace therefore has to encompass all aspects of the concept if it is to lead to enhanced business performance.

It should focus on prevention rather than reacting to some of the possible outcomes such as high staff turnover, high absenteeism rates and the associated business costs with both of these.

The overall objective has to be an organisation where the culture and environment means everyone is working to their potential; the management and team-working structures are pulling together; that there is a sense of commitment to the organisation's goals and objectives, ideally where staff are generating ideas for improving business performance, rather than clocking on reluctantly to put in their hours.



WISE WORDS:
Dr Kate Baker

Kent Big Weekend is just the ticket for attractions

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

TOURIST venues are jostling for a place on the list for Kent Big Weekend 2014 as organisers begin to compile the attractions' list for the popular annual event.

The event has become a high point in the county's calendar, giving residents the chance to get free tickets to a host of top tourism, leisure and hospitality attractions.

Held in the spring months, it is often a vital cash injection early in the season for participating venues with families flocking to spend money during traditionally quiet periods.

However, it doesn't always go to plan. This year's event was almost wiped out by snow which swept across the county in March.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive at county promoters and Big Weekend organisers Visit Kent, said: "This is a tremendous fun event for everyone living in Kent and our visitor destinations and experiences.

"Thanks to our Kent Big Weekends, local people are now much better informed about the huge range of activities on offer to our visitors.

"And they are well placed to recommend great days out and places to visit to their friends, their families and their guests during the year.

"Some 81 per cent of people who enjoyed Kent Big Weekend 2013 days out said they would visit the same place again and 92 per cent said they would recommend their day out to friends and family."

Kent's tourism industry is worth £3.4 billion to the economy and local venues and attractions are being encouraged to sign up now to be part of the 2014 event.

The Big Weekend 2014 will be held on March 29-30 – marking the start of English Tourism Week.

Mrs Matthews-Marsh added: "It is the biggest marketing opportunity of the year for all our tourism, leisure and hospitality businesses to let the county know about their latest developments, products and services.



A TICKET TO RIDE: Kent Big Weekend has been a huge hit since starting eight years ago

"Plus every attraction and experience offering free tickets, however large or small, has equal billing on the website for their photographs, information about their attractions or experiences, their location, their contact details and links to their own websites."

The Big Weekend campaign began eight years ago to promote the county's attractions in anticipation of the visitor peak times at Easter and in the summer.

From bushcraft to art, to wild animal parks and castles, all attractions taking part offer free tickets on a balloting system.

People are invited to browse the attractions and apply online and tickets are allocated randomly once the ballots close.

This year the Big Weekend received a record 92,000 ticket applications to visit 123 different attractions.

Ticket seekers also made 68,892 visits to the Kent Big Weekend website, which recorded more than 1,190,000 page views.

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Considering Your Options

Advertisers' Announcement

College the alternative to staying at school

STUDENTS upset about having to remain in education until they are 17 are being reminded that there is still a great alternative to school and university.

MidKent College is one of the biggest and best providers of further and higher education in the country, providing hundreds of courses that are free for all 16- to 18-year-olds.

From plumbing, electrical installation and sport to beauty therapy, catering, travel and tourism and a lot more, a huge range of vocational courses are on offer in addition to A-levels.

The college, which has a new £86 million campus in Medway as well as a fully-refurbished campus in Maidstone that cost £23m, attracts students of all abilities and from all walks of life.

Principal Sue McLeod said: "It is important young people understand the raising of the participation age does not mean they have to stay at school – they can escape to college."

"Many of our courses are vocational or occupational and our



CHANGE: Even though students have to remain in education until 17, it doesn't necessarily mean another year in school

links with local industries mean our students are more employable when they leave than they would be if they stayed on at school.

"I strongly believe MidKent College has a course to suit everyone and facilities that are unrivalled by any other school or college in the county."

The Government has increased the age to which all young people in England must continue in education

or training, requiring them to continue until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 from 2013, and until their 18th birthday from 2015.

This means that pupils who left year 11 in summer of 2013 need to continue in education or training until at least the end of the academic year in which they turn 17. Pupils starting Year 11 or below in

September 2013 will need to continue until at least their 18th birthday.

Meanwhile, students unsure if university is right for them are urged to consider a higher education (HE) course at the college, which offers Higher National Diplomas/Certificates and foundation degrees at just £5,950 a year – far less than the £9,000 maximum charged by some universities.

Students who enrol on an HE course at the college are guaranteed the highest quality of teaching within state-of-the-art premises, with all courses validated by the University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University or Edexcel.

Courses are available in the following subjects: applied science; built environment; business; HR; IT; education; engineering; entrepreneurship; health and social care; hospitality and event management; performing arts; security; and sport and leisure management.

Director of HE development Stephen Batchelor said: "Money should not be a barrier to education, which is why we try to keep our course fees as low as possible."

"We have designed a series of qualifications that will provide people with the skills they need to be successful in building a career and gaining an edge in the crowded job market, making higher education a worthwhile long-term investment."

■ Visit www.midkent.ac.uk for more information.

ESCAPE TO COLLEGE

Don't miss our **November** Open Evenings...

<p>THURSDAY</p> <p>07</p> <p>MEDWAY CAMPUS 6PM - 8.30PM</p>	<p>TUESDAY</p> <p>12</p> <p>MAIDSTONE CAMPUS 5.30PM - 8PM</p>
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MidKent College
A great alternative to school sixth forms

Advertisers' Announcement

Find your pathway into the future at diverse academy

THE Canterbury Academy sixth form benefits from The Canterbury Campus with its 'wealth of opportunity'.

That includes sixth form wi-fi social and study spaces, exceptional facilities for sport, excellent facilities for the performing arts and outstanding facilities for practical learning in The Enterprise & Employability College.

It offers the full range of A-levels providing an academic pathway, BTEC and C&G qualifications providing a vocational or practical pathway and innovative opportunities to prepare young adults for work and help create their own companies.

There are elite academies for gifted young sports men and women working with top-class coaches. It offers dedicated pathways for talented young performing artists in acting, dance, musical theatre and music technology, working with industry professionals.

It offers flexibility in combining courses, qualifications and levels. Students could follow A-levels and practical courses. Elite academy sport or performing-arts students can follow A-level, BTEC or C&G courses. Students can follow level 3 programmes but support them with level 2 qualifications, including the



FLEXIBLE: Combine courses at Canterbury

opportunity to improve GCSE maths and English.

The Canterbury Academy sixth form offers the opportunity to progress to university, to follow a passion for sport or the performing arts, to advance to an apprenticeship, to prepare for employment or to become an employer.

The Canterbury Academy... a sixth form for all the talents.

Considering Your Options

Accessible college offering wide range of programmes

K College is well placed around the county, with campuses at Ashford, Dover, Folkestone, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells, meaning it is accessible wherever you are.

There is a broad range of qualifications to choose from at those centres, including work-related qualifications such as BTECs, CACHE, IMI Awards and VRQs.

There are also academic programmes for those seeking something different, with qualifications available in A-levels and access to HE.

Apprenticeships also offer a great way to earn while you learn and there are also university programmes such as HNC/HNDs, Foundation Degrees and BA (Hons) Top-ups.

There is truly something for everyone at the college, with it offering a wide spectrum of subjects (subject to location) for all tastes, be it practical or classroom learning.

Those subjects include: Accounting,

Administration, Art and Design, Business, Catering and Hospitality, Construction, Dance, Early Years, Engineering, ESOL, Fashion and Textiles, Hair and Beauty, Health and Care, ICT, Media and Photography, Motor Vehicle, Music, Performing Arts, Sport, Travel and Tourism and many more.

The campuses have tailored facilities to give you the best learning environment for your course, including professional kitchens, commercial hair and beauty salons and modern motor-vehicle workshops.

There are also great facilities for those of a creative persuasion, with art and design studios, photography darkrooms and TV and radio studios and mac suites

ensuring you get the most out of your experience.

The college holds regular open events and campus tours are run every Friday at 3pm.

■ To find out more visit, visit:
www.kcollege.ac.uk/events





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To pre-register and to find out about events at our Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells campuses, please visit:

kcollege.ac.uk/events

Advertiser's Announcement

Research-led expertise supporting you and your organisation

In this current economic climate business is always looking at ways to gain competitive advantage over its competitors.

It is not enough to go to market with a me 2 product in the hope that it will gain more traction than similar offerings. This is a market of

innovation and global reach. Government policy has recognised this and incentivised business to work closer with academia to maximise commercial opportunities, bringing research expertise through the value chain all the way from manufacture to after sales. In response to this, Kent Business School (KBS) have appointed a new head of School, Professor Martin Meyer, who has been tasked amongst other things with leading the school in fresh ways to engage with businesses, from individual entrepreneurs to organisations and their teams.

Earlier this year Professor Meyer was invited, along with KBS' Director of External Service

David Williamson, to meet with Lord Young, the Prime Minister's enterprise advisor. The Kent Business School team discussed the role university business schools can play in working with small and medium-sized enterprises to encourage innovation and growth.

Professor Meyer said: 'Supporting enterprise and sustainable business is at the heart of KBS' mission. It was excellent therefore to have been recognised in the report for our external engagement and to have had this opportunity to share our ideas and plans with Lord Young.

'Lord Young explained he was on a "pilgrimage" to see examples of how the best business schools can engage with their

business community and how they support student enterprise.

'He said Canterbury was a fitting place to visit as part of that pilgrimage and that later in the year he planned to attend one of KBS' Business Executive Forums and possibly the annual Enterprise Day run for their students. This will provide Lord Young with the opportunity to meet with the School's business partners and budding student entrepreneurs and raise their awareness of some of the new Government schemes available to support small businesses and start-ups.'

To see how KBS can help your business contact the External Services team on KBSBusiness@kent.ac.uk



Research-led expertise supporting you and your organisation

As one of the UK's leading business schools, and part of a UK top 20 university, Kent Business School are here to support you and your organisation achieve your objectives, whether you are seeking personal career development, or seeking to attain competitive advantage and sustainability for your business or organisation.

In this competitive marketplace, we can help you.

Grow your Talent

Accredited by The Association of MBAs (AMBA), the Kent Executive MBA guarantees a real and relevant learning experience to broaden and sharpen your leadership and management skills. Integral to the programme are our innovative European study tour, our live consultancy week and our emphasis on personal development.

Grow business through innovation

Designed to bring together organisations large and small interested in developing and practicing open innovation, this inclusive and collaborative network blends together academic expertise and practitioner knowledge.

Access fresh thinking

Be inspired and take the opportunity to partner with many of our exceptionally talented students. We have an array of low cost student intervention opportunities for short, medium and longer term projects. These range from one-off live pitching presentations, in the 'Dragon's Den' mould, through to detailed consultancy reports, summer work placements, and year-long internships.

Don't wait to see what others around you are doing. Act now and see how we can work with you to drive success.

Email us at KBSBusiness@kent.ac.uk quoting reference KOS10-1

For more information about External Services at Kent Business School got to www.kent.ac.uk/kbs/business

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www.nwkcollege.ac.uk 3-8pm

NORTH WEST KENT COLLEGE

STEP UP TO COLLEGE – NORTH WEST KENT COLLEGE OPEN DAY

North West Kent College is holding an Open Day on Wednesday 6th November from 3-8pm at both the Dartford and Gravesend campuses, for the September 2014 intake.

Making the choice to leave school at 16 to start at college can seem like a huge decision for the average 14-15 year old. But it doesn't have to be; stepping up to college encourages confidence and enables young people to build on their talents in real commercial training facilities.

College offers young people the opportunity to train to an industry model, enabling students to interact with the world in which they want to work. Gemma Arterton and Neil Maskell probably did not envisage the extent of their careers while on a make-shift stage in a school hall, but while standing on the stage of the real-working commercial Miskin Theatre at North West Kent College.

The North West Kent College Open Day will provide an opportunity for visitors to see the state-of-the-art commercial training facilities and to speak to staff and students about the vocational and apprenticeship opportunities that are offered. The Open Day will also allow for visitors to see how the courses are delivered by the College's industry experienced staff and in many cases, have a go themselves.

Visitors will get the chance to see why North West Kent College is ranked number one in Kent and South East London for its student success rates as rated by the Skills Funding Agency. They will also be able to see the fully operational training areas open to the public such as Inspirations Hair and Beauty Salon, The Gallery Restaurant and The Miskin Theatre.

KMFM, Kent's local radio station will be at the event providing entertainment and information about the College. On the stage with KMFM will also be performers from North West Kent College's Music Department.

The College offers an extensive range of courses and levels with something to suit everyone, in; Hair, Beauty, Business, Secretarial, Computing, Construction, Engineering, Catering, Art and Design, Music, Media, Performing Arts, Professional Care, Sport, Travel and Tourism, Public Services, Foundation Learning and Higher Education.

A free return shuttle bus service is available from Dartford station to the Dartford campus during term time to make travelling to College that much easier. Plus, both campuses have extensive free car parking, making the College accessible and affordable.

There are progression opportunities available from Entry Level, through to undergraduate Level programmes across the College. Visitors do not need to book, just turn up on the day. All information and progression details can be given at the Open Day on 6th November from 3-8pm, at both Dartford and Gravesend campuses.

North West Kent College: 0800 074 1447 or www.nwkcollege.ac.uk.

For further information, please contact

Sarah O'Rourke 01322 629582

or email sarahorourke@nwcollege.ac.uk

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Searching for the facts

In the latest of a series of articles designed to make the property buying and selling process more understandable, solicitor **Edward Foster** talks surveys and searches

In the somewhat confusing world of conveyancing, searches and surveys often get mixed up.

They both provide the buyer with a better understanding of the property being purchased.

They are, however, quite different, but equally important elements.

Here is what sets them apart...

Survey

If you are using a mortgage to purchase the property, a basic mortgage survey (a valuation report) is undertaken to ensure the property meets the value of the loan the mortgage company is lending you; in other words, does it offer them sufficient collateral to lend against or, if they had to repossess, can they get their money back?

The mortgage provider administers this, but you pay for it.

Although this will highlight any significant defects the property might have, it is not the best way of ascertaining the property's overall condition or value.

A further problem with such a valuation report is it is prepared for your mortgage company's purposes only – you cannot rely on it if there is a problem in the future.

If you wish to know more about the property, you are naturally at liberty to instruct a more detailed survey, again at your expense.

Here you can have a Home Buyers Report (which is far more detailed) or even a Full Structural Survey (even more detailed); any problems will be highlighted and advice given from the surveyor.

Remember, buying a property is



Edward Foster is senior partner at FostersLaw. If you have a question relating to this or any other matter, simply 'Ask Ed' by emailing him at asked@fosters-law.co.uk

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probably the most expensive purchase you will make – it is worth spending a few hundred pounds on a decent survey to ensure what you are buying is not only correctly priced, but also, is not going to cost you thousands of pounds as soon as you move in.

Searches

Searches are a set of enquiries your solicitor submits to various third parties, including the local council, the environmental agency, the coal and water authorities.

The term 'searches' is used because your solicitor is asking those organisations to search their records for information about the particular property you are buying.

The type and number of searches vary according to what and where you are buying, although if mortgage finance is required, searches will usually include:

- Local search - carried out by your solicitor with the local authority. This will confirm any local authority land charges relating to the property; the Building Regulations and property's planning history; if roads are adopted (i.e. maintained and repaired by the highways department, as opposed to private roads which are down to the owner or a private management company to maintain); whether it is a listed building and whether there are any proposals for a motorway at the bottom of your garden, etc. If any entries are revealed, your solicitor will then make further enquiries with

the sellers' solicitors to investigate any issues on your behalf.

- Environmental search – is commonly used to identify risks within 500 metres of the property and will reveal the site history on which your house has been built. It will check if it has been built on a waste or landfill site, and if the property is within a flood plain. This search is required by most mortgage lenders. Again, your solicitor will raise any problems.

- Water and drainage search – carried out with the local water authority, confirms if the property is connected to the main drains and whether it is on a water meter or not. It will also reveal any public sewers within the boundaries, or nearby, which could affect development or building work.

- Chancel Repair Search – shows potential liability to contribute to the cost of repairs to the chancel of a local medieval church. Unfortunately, there is no readily accessible central database to identify properties with repair liability and existing records are incomplete. In some cases, liability will be shown on the Land Registry, but this is not always the case.

In certain circumstances, in certain areas of England or Wales, your solicitor will undertake additional specialist searches, for example mining or flood searches.

The costs of these searches can vary, but generally you should budget for about £200 for a local search, drainage search and environmental search.

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Grease & Saturday Night Fever Christmas Party at Mill Rythe Resort Hayling Island

2 nights half board PLUS £1.50 Bar

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Quote: MR13-KOS

Friday 22 Nov, 2013

We had a fabulous Christmas Party at Mill Rythe in 2012, so we're

doing it all again. We've booked the whole resort – for over 40s only – with great entertainment day and night including a Grease movie screening & Tribute Show and a Frankie Valli tribute. Add to this cut price drinks both nights and you're assured a cracking Christmas party weekend.

INCLUDED:

- £1.50 drinks from 6pm to midnight both nights - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 2 nights en-suite chalet accommodation
- 2 breakfasts and 2 dinners

OVER 40s ONLY

FREE Drinks

Mamma Mia & Super 70s Christmas Party at Warner Norton Grange, Isle of Wight

3 nights half board PLUS Free Bar

£219pp

Quote: NO11-KOS

Friday 29 Nov 2013

Great Entertainment, Free Drinks, Free Car Ferry and a super location make Warner's Norton Grange resort, on the Isle of Wight, our most popular Christmas Party

venue. This Christmas we're featuring a Mamma Mia movie screening, an Abba tribute band, comedy legend Joey Howard plus lots of festive and nostalgic fun. There's also a Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night.

INCLUDED:

- Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every evening for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea and standard coffee
- Entertainment & Activities programme
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna
- Car ferry crossing worth £45

99p Bar

Over 40s only

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Carry on New Year Parties at Bosworth Hall Hotel, Leicestershire

2 nights half board +99p Bar

£109pp Sale £99pp

Quote: CO1-KOS

Fridays: 17, 24 & 31 January, 2014

Extend your New Year celebrations at Bosworth Hall Hotel, in the village of Market Bosworth near Leicester. Our popular private party weekends have become a

must-do annual event with guests returning year after year. You'll enjoy entertainment each night, a New Year party plus 99p drinks. Set in 11 acres of landscaped gardens, the hotel has an indoor pool and gym available for guests' use.

INCLUDED:

- 99p bar 6pm to 11pm both evenings for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts
- Enhanced entertainment for 2014 - including cabaret both nights and a New Year Party
- 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & tea/coffee tray

Dirty Dancing Christmas Party



Quote: DDT1-KOS

PONTINS PAKEFIELD VILLAGE SUFFOLK COAST - SELF-DRIVE
3 nights half board + 99p Bar - £109pp
Friday 8 November, 2013

OVER 40s ONLY
99p DRINKS

Join us for a fabulous festive party at Pontins Pakefield, near Lowestoft. Enjoy the classic sounds of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons with top tribute Let's Hang On, a spectacular Dirty Dancing stage show and movie screening, plus a top comedian in cabaret. We have reserved the whole resort for over 40s only.

INCLUDED:

- 99p bar 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

THE MERSEY BEATS

ON STAGE

PLUS THE FOURMOST AND EDISON LIGHTHOUSE

Swinging Sixties Christmas Party

Quote: MX11-KOS

PONTINS PAKEFIELD VILLAGE SUFFOLK COAST - SELF-DRIVE
3 nights half board + 99p Bar - £109pp
Friday 15 November, 2013

OVER 40s ONLY
99p DRINKS

We're taking a trip down memory lane with a great line up of original 60s bands and a tiny bit of the 70s - Love Grows hit the number 1 spot for Edison Lighthouse 30th Jan 1970. There will be plenty of festive and nostalgic fun too at Pontins Pakefield, near Lowestoft. We have reserved the whole resort for over 40s only.

INCLUDED:

- 99p bar 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

Ultimate Swinging Sixties Party

£10pp DEPOSIT

The Fortunes
Swinging Blue Jeans
Union Gap

Vanity Faye
Dusty Springfield & Billy Fury Tributes

Quote: PU3-KOS

PONTINS PAKEFIELD VILLAGE SUFFOLK COAST - SELF-DRIVE
3 nights half board + 99p Bar - £119pp
Friday 7 March, 2014

OVER 40s ONLY
99p DRINKS

We're taking a trip down memory lane at Pakefield, near Lowestoft, with a great line up of original 60s bands including The Fortunes, Union Gap, Swinging Blue Jeans, Vanity Faye and tribute acts to Dusty Springfield and Billy Fury. Plus a host of nostalgic fun.

INCLUDED:

- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★
How green?: ★★★
Best rival: **Range Rover Sport**

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The next generation for BMW's 4x4 star

HOW time flies...

BMW announced its arrival in the 4x4 set as recently as 1999, with the X5, yet we welcome a third generation model on November 16 that now tops a whole range of 'X' models and all-wheel drive options from the German premium brand.

The original X5's debut came near the end of a period when BMW also owned Land Rover, gaining greatly from world-class 4x4 expertise in house before LR was then sold to Ford.

But the X5 was no Land Rover clone: it was a 4x4 for those who enjoy driving on a road rather than needing to battle across a muddy field; one that, ironically, Land Rover was forced to emulate in the form of the Range Rover Sport.

Indeed, BMW has always preferred to describe the X5 as an SAV (sports activity vehicle) rather than using the market's ubiquitous SUV (sports utility vehicle) label for cars with a 4x4 look.

The second generation car, launched in 2006, later emphasised the X5's marketing priorities by also gaining an 'M' sporting flagship model.

No doubt helped by this halo version and the offer of a seven-seat option for the first time to compete

particularly with Land Rover's Discovery, the X5 then became one of the brand's best-sellers alongside the 3 Series and 5 Series road cars during the heady days before the economic crash.

BMW will hope its successor can now ride the wave of recovery, though competition is now tougher: Land Rover's Discovery is still king of the SUV seven-seat niche and the new Range Rover Sport – far superior to its mish-mashed predecessor and also now with up to seven seats on offer – is rightly gaining plaudits, while the Porsche Cayenne stole the X5's crown as the ultimate on-road SUV for the status-conscious.

Stylistically, the new X5 is an evolution of its predecessors and there's not much fresh about the interior either, though it is arranged as ergonomically as ever for a BMW and there is more passenger space than before.

The big news though is that, like Land Rover, BMW has recognised demand for eco-efficient two-wheel drive variants. In this case it will have power only to the rear wheels and be branded sDrive to differentiate it from mainstream full 4x4 xDrive models.

This version arrives in early 2014 and BMW claims an official 50.4mpg

and CO2 emissions of 149g/km, though the brand naturally insists that 'regular' X5s have gained in power and economy, most noticeably the new 3.0-litre six-cylinder xDrive30d, which is 19 per cent more fuel efficient than before, with economy up by 7.4mpg and CO2 reduced by 33g/km – despite a 13bhp increase in power and potency.

Chances are though, this new sDrive option will recruit new BMW customers rather than diehard X5 fans, who will be checking out the xDrive line-up arriving shortly.

This includes the xDrive30d mentioned earlier and the performance diesel M50d, also six-cylinder, with fuel consumption 4.5mpg better than before and CO2 emissions down by 22g/km, while maintaining its high power output.

Then comes the petrol barnstormer xDrive50i, with a new-generation 4.4-litre V8 engine now incorporating variable valve timing and twin turbochargers. Power is up by 10 per cent (411hp) yet consumption falls by 20 per cent (4.6mpg) and CO2 emissions drop by 50g/km compared with the previous engine.

Other view...

the Petrolhead

It's the SUV; sporty, fast, packed with class and image and slow to depreciate – there's always someone waiting to buy it off you.

the Woman Driver

The BMW badge has cachet, but I think this car smacks of big boys' toys and overbearing driving. It's also a bit big and unwieldy.

the Eco-warrior

This sends out all the wrong messages about responsible car ownership: it's big, brash and not economical despite all the 'eco' features.





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*5.9% APR Representative and £1000 Finance Deposit Allowance available over 42 months on a Lexus Connect (PCP) scheme only on new retail sales of IS when ordered and proposed for finance between 1 October 2013 and 31 December 2013, registered and financed by 31 March 2014 through Lexus Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ at participating Lexus Centres. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Terms and conditions apply. Excess mileage charge applies over 35,000 miles at 12 pence per mile. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Lexus Centre are independent of Lexus Financial Services. New IS prices start from £26,495 OTR. Model shown is IS 300h SE costing £30,105 including optional metallic paint at £610. Car shown not to UK specification. The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. These are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

New IS Series Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 22.8 (12.4) - 64.2 (4.4), Extra Urban 38.7 (7.3) - 62.8 (4.5), Combined 30.7 (9.2) - 65.7 (4.3).
CO₂ Emissions 213 g/km - 99 g/km.





Cut-price supercar

KEY supercar ingredients would be weight-saving carbon fibre for the bodywork, with a balanced mid-engine/rear-wheel drive layout – plus a £150K price tag.

But Alfa Romeo has achieved this for just £45,000 with their new two-seat 160mph 4C, marking the Italian sporting brand's return to making small, lightweight sports coupés.

The 4C's carbon fibre body is just one aspect of ruthless weight-paring that allows 0-62mph in just 4.5 seconds.



Affordable roots

ORDER books are open for a new Caterham Seven that marks a return to the Kent-produced sportster's affordable roots as a creation of legendary Lotus founder, Colin Chapman.

The new Seven 160 entry model uses a small yet powerful 660cc Suzuki engine and will cost as little as £14,995 in kit form or £17,995 fully built. Caterham's HQ is in the namesake Surrey town, but production is based in Dartford.



The miserly SUV

HONDAS has always sought to avoid accusations all SUVs and 4x4s are gas guzzlers and has produced its strongest argument yet, with a frugal 1.6-litre diesel version of its impressive British-built CR-V.

Blending 120PS (118bhp) with an official combined consumption of 62.8mpg, would-be buyers of this Swindon-made ecologically-friendly star might also be tempted an economically-friendly £239/month, zero per cent PCP finance plan over three years, including servicing.



CHANGE OF GEAR: Lexus' third generation IS has been designed to rival the Audi A4, Mercedes C-Class and BMW 3 Series

PLAYING catch-up wasn't working for Lexus in its battle against German rivals, so Toyota's premium arm changed the game.

The Japanese marque's plan is laid out by its newest model, the third generation IS (from £26,495) designed to take the fight to rivals like the Audi A4, Mercedes-Benz C-Class and ubiquitous BMW 3 Series.

The German trio majors on diesels that save company car man's tax burden, yet burnish his image privately and at work.

The previous IS never really challenged them here so, with petrol-electric hybrids already the mainstay of the Lexus line-up, the new IS also goes hybrid with a powerful yet frugal 178bhp 2.5-litre petrol and 141bhp electric IS 300h powertrain that, when asked to combine their efforts, taps into 220bhp with diesel-style low down punch and 0-62mph in 8.3 seconds.

This is delivered smoothly, except for a selectable tailored sound track emulating the engine note if you accelerate hard – Lexus seems to admit that sporty drivers might not always like the car's quietness and refinement.

Mind you, no one could complain at the absence of diesel rumble when the car is started on a cold morning or when manoeuvring in a car park.

The other big bonus is the best chassis yet on an IS: Lexus created the original on the classic rear-wheel drive platform favoured by the 3 Series and C Class, but never quite delivered the poise of the BMW in particular.

The new car is much better and definitely lives up to, and no doubt benefits from, its wider track and more aggressive stance.

But the IS's trump card is ownership advantages that Lexus says are unmatched by any 2.0-litre diesel

Lexus takes fight to the Germans

Latest IS model sees Lexus go head-to-head with its arch-rivals, while serving up a slick alternative complete with hybrid options, says **Steve Loader**

equivalents in the premium saloon market, thanks to low maintenance and running costs, good residual value forecasts, and tax benefits and incentives from the hybrid powertrain.

Shrewdly, Lexus has made the entry model the best to enjoy these benefits: the SE (from £29,495) offers an official combined cycle figure of 65.7mpg, plus road tax-exempt 99gm/km of CO2, though even the higher spec Luxury (from £30,995) and Premier (from £38,495) grade hybrids emit just 103gm.

For me though, the pick is the

Lexus IS300 F Sport

Price:	£33,495
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Road tax:	£20 (zero year one)
Best rival:	BMW 320d

Kent dealers

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more driver-orientated F Sport (from £33,495) – riding on bigger tyres and tested here – emitting 109g/km, but still escaping road tax in year one and incurring just £20 a year thereafter.

But Lexus clearly doesn't want to be seen as completely PC, so there are a few petrol models for dihard

and top end hooligans.

The more sensible is the IS250 series with 202bhp, 0-62mph in 8.1 seconds, though the official combined mpg is around 30, depending on model.

The halo car of the range though, aiming for a BMW M3 effect on the overall IS image, is the scorching five-litre V8 ISF (£58,416) – 0-62mph in 4.8 seconds with a thirst (24.4mpg combined).

As ever from Lexus, standard kit is unusually generous and fit and finish exemplary, while the dashboard is well arranged and slick to operate; most notable is the centre console 'mouse' falling nicely to hand for quick flitting around the infotainment set-up.

The new car is far more eye-catching than its predecessor, with an unusual 'twisted' sill, said to aid aerodynamics and delivering an upswept look to the tail.

The newcomer has a longer wheelbase too for far more rear legroom, and a bigger boot – seemingly unaffected by the battery pack for the hybrid powertrain.

So, with Lexus always at or near the top for customer satisfaction and reliability, this new mainstay model leaves little excuse to give repeat business to the German marques.



NEW PEUGEOT 308 AN EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW

DATE: WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER
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LOCATION: GRAND GARAGE, MARGATE

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Model Shown: CR-V 1.6 i-DTEC SR Manual in optional Urban Titanium Metallic at £27,380 On The Road. Terms and Conditions: New retail CR-V 1.6 i-DTEC registered between 19 October 2013 to 31 December 2013. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £239 per month example shown based on CR-V 1.6 i-DTEC S in Urban Titanium Metallic at £23,300 total cash price (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed with £5,849.75 (25%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £8,545.25, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge, 6p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8DY. **Complimentary Servicing:** 5 years' servicing or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. Includes a maximum of 5 manufacturer's scheduled services.



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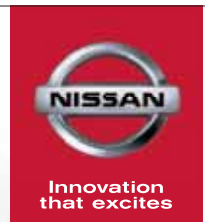
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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13(3) OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Proposed development at **Land 500M South West Otterpool Manor Barn (adj. Harringe Brooks Wood) Otterpool Lane Sellindge Kent**

I give notice that Ecotricity (Next Generation) Ltd is applying to Shepway District Council for planning permission for a **wind energy development comprising the erection of six wind turbines, each with a maximum overall height of up to 125m together with access tracks, crane pad areas, electricity sub-station, temporary construction compound and amended vehicular access**, being accompanied by additional information to supplement the Environmental Statement covering matters on EIA, Site Selection and Design, Landscape and Visual, Cultural Heritage, Ecology, Ornithology, Noise, Transport and Access, Shadow Flicker and Miscellaneous.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application (reference **Y12/0451/SH**)
- The plans
- The environmental statement (including supplementary information).
- Other documents submitted with the application

A copy of the application including the plans, Environmental Statement and supplementary information may be inspected:

- Online at <http://www.shepway.gov.uk/content/view/200376/203/>
- Online by prior appointment at the Civic Centre, Folkestone, 8.30 am - 5.00 pm weekdays, except Wednesday 9.30 am - 5.00 pm. Please ring 01303 853538 to book an appointment

Members of the Public may also obtain copies of the Environmental Statement from Planning Department, Ecotricity, Axiom House, Station Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 3AP on payment of £150.00 for a paper copy or £35 for a CD version.

Anyone who wishes to make representation can do so in writing to the Council at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or by e-mail to planning@shepway.gov.uk ensuring you include your full postal address and quoting the application number within a period of 21 days commencing on the date of publication of the notice.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13(3) OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Proposed development at **Land 1085 Metres South West Lydd Model Flying Club Site, Midley Wall, Old Romney, Kent**

I give notice that **Airvolution Energy Limited** is applying to Shepway District Council for planning permission for a **wind energy development comprising the erection of four wind turbines, each with a maximum height to blade tip of 126.5 metres together with a substation and control building, associated hardstandings, an improved access junction, connecting internal access tracks and water crossings and other related infrastructure**, being accompanied by an amended chapter 8 of the Environmental Statement from the original submitted.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application (reference **Y13/0048/SH**)
- The plans
- The environmental statement
- Other documents submitted with the application

A copy of the application including the plans, Environmental Statement and supplementary information may be inspected:

- Online at <http://www.shepway.gov.uk/content/view/200376/203/>
- Online by prior appointment at the Civic Centre, Folkestone, 8.30 am - 5.00 pm weekdays, except Wednesday 9.30 am - 5.00 pm. Please ring 01303 853538 to book an appointment
- **Online at The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney - Tuesdays and Fridays 9 am - 12.30 pm.**

Members of the Public may also obtain copies of the Environmental Statement from **Ref: Ave, Planning, Savills, Wessex House, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 1BN at a charge of £250 for a paper copy or £5 for a CD version.**

Anyone who wishes to make representation can do so in writing to the Council at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or by e-mail to planning@shepway.gov.uk ensuring you include your full postal address and quoting the application number within a period of 21 days commencing on the date of publication of the notice.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

An application for a variation has been made by: **Mrs O Poliah** for the premises known as Ramsley Stores and Post Office, The PortaCabin, Summerville Road, TN4 8JE.

On the date of: **28th October 2013**

Summary of the proposed licensable activities and the proposed hours of opening:

As previous licence, no change to times - new temporary location for premises

07:00 - 23:00 Monday to Saturday
10:00 - 23:30 Sunday

Sale of alcohol - Non Standard Timings

Good Friday 08:00 - 22:30

Christmas Day 12:00 - 15:00

Christmas Day 19:00 - 22:30

Any person wishing to view details of an application may contact the Licensing Partnership on 01732 227004

Any person wishing to make representation about the application should make them in writing on or before the 30th November 2013

Licensing Partnership, PO Box 182, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP

licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk

<http://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online-licensing>

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary of conviction for the offence is £5000.

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PLANNING

Planning applications



Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

- CA/13/01873/FUL:** 1 Chantry Court, St Radigunds Street, Canterbury, CT1 2AD Replacement of existing timber sliding sash windows to uPVC sliding sash and existing wooden entrance door to uPVC/Composite. **Applicant: Mrs Bramwell** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/01904/FUL:** 5 Homeside Farm, Bossingham, Upper Hardres, CT4 6AR Proposed ground floor side and rear extension, new glazed roof link to garden, and western elevation of main building to be insulated with new weatherboarding. **Applicant: Mr K Watts** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/01905/FUL:** 68 Woodtown Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HH Replacement of all ground and first floor uPVC casement windows, front and rear, with new uPVC sliding sash windows. **Applicant: Ms A Maclean** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/01910/FUL:** Land at Calcott Hill, Calcott Hill, Sturry, CT3 4ND Erection of detached dwelling with associated garage and landscaping. **Applicant: Stallan Sturry Limited** Reason: Development Plan and setting of listed building.
- CA/13/01912/FUL:** Willow End, The Grove, Fordwich, CT2 0DE Rear extension including increase of chalet roof space to include dormer windows to front and rear elevations. **Applicant: Mr McCarthy** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/01947/FUL:** 225 Canterbury Road, Herne, CT6 7HB Erection of boundary wall to front of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr J Gaskill** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/01959/FUL:** 73 Cromwell Road, Whitstable, CT5 1NN Retention of single garage with pitched roof. **Applicant: Mr Colley** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/01966/FUL:** 13 Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury, CT2 7HF Single-storey extension to rear and side of property and installation of three rooflights to rear roofspace. **Applicant: Mr McBroom** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/01976/FUL:** 80 Shipman Avenue, Canterbury, CT2 8PE Retention of pedestrian access from garden of 80 Shipman Avenue, as a fire exit point and emergency access, onto Mill Lane. **Applicant: Ms S Esmaeli** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/01977/VAR:** Hardres Court Farm, Hardres Court Road, Upper Hardres Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission CA/13/01238 for the erection of Single Sucker Covered Yard and fodder store; alterations to re-orientate the building. **Applicant: Mrs McDonald** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/01979/VAR:** Hardres Court Farm, Hardres Court Road, Upper Hardres Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission CA/13/01248 for the erection of Youngstock Covered Yard and fodder store; alterations to re-orientate the building. **Applicant: Mrs McDonald** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/01991/ADV:** 15 Whitefriars Street, Canterbury, CT1 2TA Installation of two No fascia signs, two No projecting signs and window vinyl. **Applicant: Tiger Retail Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/01994/FUL:** 11 Nelson Road, Whitstable, CT5 1DR Replacement windows to front elevation. **Applicant: W Wilson** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be submitted via public access on the planning pages of the website www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc to arrive on or before **Monday 25 November 2013**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 1 November 2013



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

- Y13/1086/SH** - 50 The Bayle Folkestone Kent CT20 1SJ - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising the felling of a Eucalyptus and the reduction of two conifers by 3 metres
- Y13/1079/SH** - The Grand The Leas Folkestone Kent CT20 2LR - Listed building consent for internal works for the subdivision of the apartments to create two residential units and the removal of a later brick partition, required to be retained by condition 4 of Listed Building Consent Y11/0027/SH.

Y13/1065/SH - Land Opposite Watring Hole Dungeness Road Dungeness Kent - Erection of a new timber kiosk building, together with formation of a new access road.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- # - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney
- + - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

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**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND
CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990**

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or its setting.

**REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING
APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 18 NOVEMBER 2013**

SW/13/1234: Listed Building Consent for proposed new flue on west elevation – Tonge Mill, Church Road, TONGE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/1230: Demolition of an existing garage and erection of a new brick garage, timber framed mower store and covered log store. Removal of 1 number existing Ash tree – The Vicarage, Vicarage Road, MINSTER; **REASON 1**

SW/13/1290: Demolition of a rear lean to projection, removal of the bungalow roof, construction of a rear extension and the erection of a new roof over the enlarged dwelling footprint to create a new floor accommodation with dormers – 36 Cellar Hill, TEYNHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/1296: Listed building alterations subject to previous consent references SW/12/0117 and SW/12/0121 – Former Garden Hotel, 169 The Street, BOUGHTON; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/1309: Installation of air source heat pump to serve heating of barn conversion – Homestall Farmhouse, Homestall Road, DODDINGTON; **REASON 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning



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**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING APPLICATIONS
LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS
CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS**

- DOV/13/00849** Variation of condition 16 of planning permission DOV/98/00686 to allow opening hours Monday to Saturday 8am-9pm and Sundays 10am-6pm (application under Section 73) **MAJ**
Aldi Foodstore, Cherry Tree Avenue, Dover, CT16 2NL
- DOV/13/00861** Erection of a roof extension incorporating front and rear dormers, a single storey rear extension and front porch **ARW**
The Bungalow, Young's Place, West Hougham, Dover, CT15 7AX
- DOV/13/00859** Erection of two canopies, installation of new doors, enlargement of existing MOT bay and associated works **MAJ**
Online (MBT) Roadway Ltd., Menzies Road, Dover Port Zone, Whitfield, CT16 2HQ
- DOV/13/00864** Erection of extensions to extend existing garage with a flat above **SLC**
Site rear of, 2 Beaconsfield Avenue, Dover, CT16 2LS
- DOV/13/00867** Proposed new foodstore, doctor's surgery and pharmacy, together with associated car parking, landscaping, courtyard and service yard **ALL**
Land Adjacent to, 10 Dover Road, Sandwich, CT13 0BN
- DOV/13/00876** Erection of single storey and two storey rear extensions and a single storey side infill extension **CON**
5 St Georges Place, Sandwich, CT13 9LW
- DOV/13/00878** Retrospective application for fence on boundary wall fronting Manor Road **ARW**
1 Gaunts Close, Deal, CT14 9DA
- DOV/13/00540** Installation of rear and side rooflights and internal alterations **LCN**
3 Wilkinson Drive, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7DR
- DOV/13/00550** Installation of rear and side rooflights **LCN**
3 Wilkinson Drive, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7DR
- DOV/13/00844** Erection of a detached dwelling (existing garage to be demolished) **RCON**
Site at Pond Pasture, Church Street, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7RP
- DOV/13/00872** Erection of a detached dwelling, construction of a vehicular access and erection of a replacement garage for Swannington **RCAF**
Land Rear of Swannington, Church Cliff, Kingsdown, Deal, CT14 8AT
- DOV/13/00879** Erection of single storey front and rear infill extensions **CON**
Downs Sailing Club, The Strand, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7DY
- DOV/13/00891** Change of use to tea shop (use class A3), conversion of garage to store and WC facilities and associated external and internal works **CON**
64-65 The Strand, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7DP
- DOV/13/00810** Removal of internal ground floor wall and infill of existing external side door **LBC**
Rose Cottage, Church Lane, West Stourmouth, Canterbury, CT3 1HS

Reason for Advert Codes:-

CON – Within Conservation Area **MAJ** – Major Development
LCN – Listed Building in a Conservation Area **ARW** – Affects a Public Right of Way
RCON – Within a Conservation Area and affects a public right of way
RCAF – Affecting a Conservation Area and a public right of way
SLC – The proposal affects a Listed Building
ALL – To affect setting of a Listed Building & Conservation Area
ALL – Listed Building, in a Conservation Area, affects a Public Right of Way and is a major development

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent within 21 days marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. Any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

- 13/03109/LBC** **Paper Mill Oast Hinksden Road, Benenden**
- Listed Building Consent: Extension to curtilage building (LB)
- 13/03040/HOUSE** **Erindale High Street, Bidborough**
- Single storey side and rear extensions (CA)
- 13/02936/HOUSE** **Matfield House The Green, Brenchley**
- Oak-framed garage (CA) (LB)
- 13/02938/LBC** **Matfield House The Green, Brenchley**
- Listed Building Consent - Oak-framed garage (LB)
- 13/03006/LBC** **Little Swallows Gofford Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Remove existing partition wall within ground floor room (LB)
- 13/03082/LBC** **Foot Dawson Financial Services LLP 17 - 19 Church Road, Culverden**
- Listed Building Consent - Removal of No.17 and No.19 by blocking up openings on each floor level and reinstatement of fire lobbies (LB)
- 13/03094/LBC** **Former Bakery Headcorn Road, Frittenden**
- Listed Building Consent: Conversion of bakery to two bedroom house (LB)
- 13/03097/LBC** **Mount Pleasant Farmhouse Mount Pleasant, Lamberhurst**
- Listed building consent - replacement of rotten timber windows and weatherboard to front and side elevations and replace with similar timber windows and weatherboard and including fibreglass insulation in the external walls with a breather membrane (LB)
- 13/02862/HOUSE** **9 Bedford Terrace Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Removal of conservatory at rear and make good to external wall (LB) (CA)
- 13/02863/LBC** **9 Bedford Terrace Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent - Removal of conservatory at rear and make good to external wall (LB)
- 13/03005/FULMC** **Russell & Bromley Ltd 42 - 44 Mount Pleasant Road, Park**
- Installation of a new shopfront (CA)
- 13/02960/HOUSE** **Ringle Crouch Crouch Lane, Sandhurst**
- Demolition of redundant 19th/20th century boiler room and chimney. Erection of single storey extension (LB)
- 13/02961/LBC** **Ringle Crouch Crouch Lane, Sandhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Erection of single storey extension. Demolition of redundant 19th/20th century boiler room and chimney (LB)
- 13/03101/REM** **Land West Of Knights Way, Sherwood**
- Reserved Matters (Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale) - To provide 300 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), 670 sq m GEA of non-residential floorspace (Use Classes A1, A2, A3, A5, B1, D1 and/or D2), and associated works including internal road network and associated highway works; re-profiling of site levels; landscaping and selective tree removal; informal and formal open space; pedestrian, cyclist and public transport infrastructure; utilities and drainage infrastructure; car and cycle parking; waste storage; and works to existing woodland (MAJOR) (DEVPLN) (EIA)
- (DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA)
Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.
- You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.
- You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.
- James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS



Dated: 02 November 2013

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications**

- MA/13/1701/S** – YEW COTTAGE, LADDINGFORD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6BX – Two storey side extension. **Reason: 1**
- MA/13/1744/N** – DRUIDS ARMS, 24, EARL STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1PP – 1 no: internally illuminated lantern, illuminated fascia and pictorial panel hanging sign and 3 no: non illuminated board signs. **Reason: 1, 2**
- MA/13/1822/S** – LAND EAST OF CHANCE, GRIGG LANE, HEADCORN, KENT, TN27 9TD – Erection of 5 houses with associated parking. **Reason: 9**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 – Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 – Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 9 – Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **17th November 2013**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 3rd November 2013.



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HIGHWAYS – ASHFORD AREA

B2067 BONNINGTON ROAD, BILSINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow telegraph pole replacement works to be safely carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of B2067 Bonnington Road, Bilsington.

Bonnington Road will be closed in the vicinity of Gorsewood Farm, with no through access between Priory Road and Frogmore Lane.

The closure is planned for Tuesday 5 November 2013 for 1 day, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours.

The alternative route is via B2067 Bonnington Road, Ashford Road, Frith Road, Goldwell Lane, Forge Hill, New Ash Hill, Boat Lane and Bonnington Road.

LONG HILL, CHILHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow safe access to phone cables in the carriageway to restore customer service, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Long Hill, Chilham.

Long Hill will be closed between the junctions with Maidstone Road and New Cut Road.

The closure is planned for Monday 18 November 2013 for up to 1 day, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours.

The alternative route is via A252 Maidstone Road and New Cut Road.

B2080 READING STREET AND EBONY ROAD, TENTERDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of junction modification works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on B2080 Reading Street and Ebony Road, Tenterden, as shown below.

EBONY ROAD, TENTERDEN will be closed from Monday 4 November 2013 for up to 5 days.

The closure is in the vicinity of the junction with Reading Street.

Access remains from Lower Road up to the point of closure, but no through access.

The alternative through route is via Ebony Road, Lower Road, Appledore Road, Ferry Road, B2080 Tenterden Road and Reading Street

B2080 READING STREET planned to be closed on Wednesday 6 November 2013 between 09:00 hours and 15:30 hours.

This closure is subject to weather conditions, and may be delayed in the event of wet or very cold weather.

The closure is either side of the junction with Ebony Road, with access from either direction up to where the road is closed

The alternative route is via Appledore Road, B2067 Woodchurch Road, Brook Street, Kenardington Road, Warehome Road, The Street, Marsh Road, Ashford Road, A2070 Ashford Road to Brenzett Corner Roundabout, B2080 Rhee Wall Road, Station Road, The Street, Tenterden Road and Reading Street

HIGHWAYS – CANTERBURY AREA

KING STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER OCTOBER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of King Street, Canterbury.

King Street, Canterbury will be closed between the junctions with St Alphege Street and Knotts Lane.

The closure is planned to commence from 4 November 2013 for up to 3 days.

Due to the nature of the works, the road will need to remain closed at all times during the closure period.

The alternative routes are

Southbound via Palace Street and Orange Street
Northbound via Orange Street, Palace Street, The Borough, St Radigund's Street and Knotts Lane

CHARTHAM HATCH LEVEL CROSSING, CHARTHAM, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER NOVEMBER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow level crossing maintenance works to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Chatham Hatch Level Crossing, Chatham, Canterbury.

Hatch Road, Chatham will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The planned closure is from Saturday 23 November at 02:00 hours through until Monday 25 November at 04:00 hours.

The alternative route is via A28 Ashford Road, Howfield Lane, Town Lane and Hatch Lane.

KENT STREET, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and the installation of dropped kerbs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Kent Street, Whitstable.

Kent Street will be closed at the junction with Forge Lane.

The closure is planned to commence from 18 November 2013 for up to 2 days. Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

Access will remain from the junction with Harwich Street. The alternative route for through traffic is via Saddleton Road, Essex Street and Harwich Street.

THE STREET, BISHOPSBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to re-line a sewer, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on The Street, Bishopsbourne.

The Street will be closed between junctions of Frog Lane and Park Lane.

The Street will be closed from 4 November 2013 for 2-3 days within overall works lasting 2 weeks.

The road will be re-opened outside working hours whenever safe to do so, and every effort will be made to maintain as much access as possible for residents at times when the road is closed.

The alternative route is via Frog Lane, Bonny Bush Hill and Rose Lane

HIGHWAYS – DOVER AREA

CHILTON FIELD, ASH (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the workforce and public during works to install a new sewer connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily waiting on part of Chilton Field, Ash.

This affects both sides of Chilton Field, from the junction with Queens Road to opposite the west side of the junction with Becket Close, including the layby on the north side of Chilton Field.

Waiting will be prohibited at all times, to the extent indicated by signage and No Waiting cones on site.

This restriction is planned to commence from 18 November 2013 for up to 5 days, or until the works have been completed.

PALM TREE LANE, AYLESHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install new gullies and a soakaway to resolve flooding to nearby properties, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Palm Tree Lane, Aylesham.

Palm Tree Lane will be closed in the vicinity of Listways Cottages, to the west of the junction with Old Court Hill, with no through access between Chapmans Hill and Old Court Hill.

The closure is planned to commence from 4 November 2013 for up to 2 weeks, or until the works have been completed.

Due to the nature of these works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

The alternative route is via Old Court Hill, Church Street, Chapmans Hill and Palm Tree Lane.

HIGHWAYS – GRAVESEND AREA

SPRINGHEAD ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Pavement investigation works by a third party, Kent County Council intends to make an Order for the suspension of the current weight restriction in Springhead Road from Thames Way to Hall Road Roundabout. The restriction will be on or after 18th November 2013 for up to 7 nights or until the works have been completed in accordance with the following Schedule

From 18th November 2013 to 24th November 2013 from 20:00hrs to 06:00hrs

The order has been made to facilitate works being undertaken on the A2 coast bound Pepper Hill off slip, under a road closure, by The Highways Agency.

The temporary order will apply when the relevant signage has been obscured.

HIGHWAYS – MAIDSTONE AREA

BIMBURY LANE, STOCKBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new water main, Kent County Council has made an Order to prohibit through traffic on Bimbury Lane from A249 Sittingbourne Road to outside Bimbury Cottage on or after 04 November 2013 until 20 November 2013 or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via A249 Sittingbourne Road, Chalky Road, South Street Road.

CHART HILL ROAD, STAPLEHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary for maintenance works to be carried out to Hertsfield Bridge, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chart Hill Road, Staplehurst, on or after 8 November 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from A229 Staplehurst Road to Lower Farm Road.

The alternative route is via A229 Staplehurst Road/Linton Hill, B2163 Heath Road/Plough Wents Road.

LOWER HIGH STREET MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the completion of resurfacing the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lower High Street, on or after 4th November 2013 for up to 3 days (from 1am) or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Pudding Lane to Fairmeadow the junction of Mill Street.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via Earl Street, Pudding lane, High Street.

WEST STREET, HARRIETSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of highway improvement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on West Street, Harrietsham, on or after 4 November 2013 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from A20 Ashford Road to Hook Lane.

The alternative route is via A20 Ashford Road and Hook Lane.

HIGHWAYS – SEVENOAKS AREA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL HAS MADE AN ORDER UNDER SECTIONS 81, 82, 83 AND 84 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, THE EFFECT OF WHICH IS TO :-

INSTALL A 20MPH LIMIT ON OAK FARM LANE FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH GRAVESEND ROAD TO ITS JUNCTION WITH HODSOLL STREET.

A copy of the Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford

Highways Depot, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within

the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders..

VARIOUS ROADS, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991 (SPECIAL EVENTS) ACT 1994 SECTION 16A

Because of Sevenoaks Round Table Fireworks Festival and Torchlight Procession, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Sevenoaks, on or after 9th November 2013 for up to 1 day as per Schedule 1.

SCHEDULE 1

Road Name: High Street, Sevenoaks
Extent: from Pembroke Road to London Road – 16:30-20:30hrs
Diversion: Pembroke Road, A224 London Road, A25 Westerham Road, A21 Southbound, A225 Riverhill/Tonbridge Road.

Road Name: London Road, Sevenoaks
Extent: from South Park to High Street - 18:45-19:45hrs
Diversion: A224 London Road, A25 Westerham Road, A21 Southbound, A225 Riverhill/Tonbridge Road.

Road Name: High Street/Tonbridge Road, Sevenoaks
Extent: from London Road, Tonbridge Road (south of Dukes Meadow Entrance to Sevenoaks School) – 18:45-19:45hrs
Diversion: A225 Tonbridge Road/Riverhill, A21 London bound A25 Westerham Road, A224 London Road

Road Name: Rockdale Road, Sevenoaks
Extent: at the junction of High Street – 18:45-19:45hrs
Diversion: n/a

Road Name: Oak Lane, Sevenoaks
Extent: at the junction of Tonbridge Road – 18:45-19:45hrs
Diversion: n/a
Road Name: Solefields Road, Sevenoaks
Extent: at the junction of Tonbridge Road 18:45-19:45hrs
Diversion: n/a

A20 LONDON ROAD, FARNINGHAM, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY SPEED LIMIT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during BT works to access a manhole for cabling repair works a temporary mandatory speed limit of 10 miles per hour should be imposed at the roundabout from the junction with Dartford Road and London Road for a distance of 275 metres.

The Speed Limit will be in place for 2 nights commencing on the 6th November 2013 from the hours of 22:00-06:00hrs.

RAYS HILL, HORTON KIRBY, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a new water supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rays Hill, Horton Kirby, Sevenoaks, on or after 23rd November 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Pippins and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: The Street, Lombard Street.

HIGHWAYS – SWALE AREA

A251 ASHFORD ROAD, BADDLESME & FAVERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991



**For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 0300 333 5539 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways**

HIGHWAYS

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on sections of A251 Ashford Road, Baddlesmere and A251 Ashford Road, Faversham.

Overnight closures of Ashford Road are planned to commence from 18 November 2013, as detailed below.

A251 ASHFORD ROAD, BADDLESMEERE – closed between the junctions with Leaveland Belles Forstal and Baddlesmere Lees

19 - 22 & 25 November 2013 – 19:00 hours through until 05:00 hours

A251 ASHFORD ROAD, FAVERSHAM – closed between M2 Motorway Junction 6 (Westbound Slip Roads) and the junction with Salters Lane

18 & 25 November 2013 – 20:00 hours through until 05:00 hours

The diversion route for all through traffic is via A2 Canterbury Road, London Road, Boughton Bypass, Harbledown Bypass, A2050 / A290 Rheims Way, A28 Wincheap, Thanington Road, Ashford Road, Canterbury Road, A252 Canterbury Road, A251 Faversham Road and Ashford Road

These works are weather dependent, and should adverse conditions prevent them going ahead on the planned dates shown above, revised dates will be notified and signposted on site.

PROVENDER LANE, NORTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow telegraph pole replacement works to be safely carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Provender Lane, Norton.

Provender Lane will be closed from the junction with Rushett Lane north eastwards to the vicinity of Westfield Cottage.

Closures are planned to commence from Wednesday 6 November 2013 for up to 2 days, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours each day.

The alternative route is via Norton Road, A2 London Road and Provender Lane.

HIGHWAYS – SWALE AREA

SCOCLES ROAD, MINSTER-ON-SEA (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to lay a new high voltage cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Scooles Road, Minster-on-Sea.

Scooles Road will be closed in 2 phases, initially to the north, then to the south of the junction with Elm Lane, with access from either direction up to where the road is closed, but no through access.

The closure is planned to commence from Monday 18 November 2013 for up to 3 weeks. Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

The alternative routes are

A2500 Lower Road, Barton Hill Drive, B2008 Minster Road, Back Lane and High Street, or

A2500 Lower Road, Forty Acres Hill, B2008 Eastchurch Road, Chequers Road, Chapel Street and Back Lane (plus High Street in reverse)

HIGHWAYS – THANET AREA

VARIOUS ROADS, RAMSGATE & BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER OCTOBER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on various roads in Ramsgate and Broadstairs, planned to commence from 4 November 2013.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

HERESON ROAD, RAMSGATE – closed at the junction with Boundary Road/Victoria Road.

4 & 5 November 2013 – 19:00 hours through to 02:00 hours each night

Alternative route via Montefiore Avenue, Dumpton Park Road, Thanet Road, Victoria Parade and B2054 Victoria Road

KING STREET, RAMSGATE – closed at the junction with Boundary Road/Victoria Road.

4 & 5 November 2013 – 19:00 hours through to 02:00 hours each night

Alternative route via Plains of Waterloo, B2054 Wellington Crescent, Victoria Parade and Victoria Road

FAIRFIELD ROAD, BROADSTAIRS – closed at the junction with Rumfields Road/Bromstone Road.

11 November 2013 – 19:30 hours through to 02:00 hours

Alternative route via Fairfield Road, A255 Broadstairs Road, A256 Westwood Road and Rumfields Road

PYSONS ROAD, BROADSTAIRS – closed at the junction with Rumfields Road/Bromstone Road.

12 November 2013 – 19:30 hours through to 02:00 hours

Alternative route via Pysons Road, A254 Margate Road, Northwood Road, A256 Westwood Road and Rumfields Road

HIGHWAYS – TONBRIDGE AREA

MOTE ROAD, IGHTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of improvements to the drainage system, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mote Road, Ightham, on or after 4 November 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed 50m north of Stone Cottage.

The alternative route is via High Cross Road, A227 Ightham Road/Stumble Hill and Hildenborough Road.

HIGHWAYS – TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984 (ZEBRA CROSSING – MOUNT EPHRAIM, TUNBRIDGE WELLS)

NOTICE is hereby given that Kent County Council, as local traffic authority, and after consultation with the chief officer of police, propose to establish a crossing (Zebra) for pedestrians under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all their enabling powers, as follows:

MOUNT EPHRAIM - Outside numbers 49 to 58

Dated 3 November 2013

Andy Corcoran

Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager

Kent County Council Highways & Transportation

Full details of the proposal can be viewed at Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX or at www.kent.gov.uk

LOWER GREEN ROAD, SPELDHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works on high and low voltage electric cables, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lower Green Road, Speldhurst, on or after 4 November 2013 for up to 14 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Harwinton Lodge.

The alternative route is via Broomhill Road, Speldhurst Hill and Etherington Hill.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 27th October 2013

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 0300 333 5539 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



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Dobriskey eyeing a clean slate after overcoming injury

New Romney runner Lisa Dobriskey has endured a tough few years in her career but is hoping to get back to the form that saw her win silver in the World Championships four years ago after regaining fitness. She talks to **Greg Miles** about her time out with injuries, the disappointing Olympics and drugs cheats.

TO say Lisa Dobriskey has had some bad luck in the last two years would be an understatement.

The bubbly 1,500-metres runner had a hellish build-up to the Olympics, with blood clots on her lungs and back problems.

Then she missed the World Athletics Championships in the summer, the first time she had missed a major competition in her career, after her season was wrecked through injury.

The 2009 world silver-medallist is now getting back to fitness and looking forward to putting the past firmly in the past, with the Commonwealth Games the next challenge in Glasgow in the summer.

It is a tournament that holds fond memories for the New Romney star as she picked up a gold medal in Melbourne in 2006.

The injury this summer was a hard one to take for the 29-year-old, who had felt a tendon in her foot worsen as the summer progressed.

"It was my foot that was injured. The bottom tendon from the big toe to the bottom of the heel – I completely ruptured it," she said. "It's been a bit slow to heal.

"It's quite common in runners, just because of where it is on your foot and the way your drive through it.

"It started at the beginning of the summer in April. It showed to be a little bit of a problem but not too much. But I continued running on it and it got worse and worse."

It reached a point of no return at the trials for the world-championships squad back in July at which she did not want to run because of her condition but felt she had no choice if she was to compete on the world stage.

"It was the worst possible time," she said. "It was difficult because I have never, ever missed a summer season, really. It was quite hard to have it happen then.

"I have had quite a few significant injuries over the last couple of years. I thought 'Oh, give me a break', but it's part and parcel of sport.

"Before I raced the heats at the tri-

als, I felt awful. I woke up in the morning and it was really bad. I had made the decision not to run.

"The hope was I would give it a few weeks to recover and see if some rest would help it.

"But I was under a lot of pressure to run the final and I wasn't in the right state of mind to do it. I had decided not to race, but you're in a position where you have to fight for your place in the team.

"If I had known the consequences I would never have done it.

"I started running again a couple of weeks ago now. I did have a setback at first, but I'm OK."

As it was, just a few hundred metres into the race she pulled out and her worst fears were confirmed that her season, and with it a chance to compete at the World Championships in Moscow, was over.

While out injured, Dobriskey, who trains in Loughborough in Leicestershire, also had a routine operation to repair cartilage in her knee and, as coincidence would have it, she had her first consultation for the operation on the day of the 1,500m finals in Moscow.

Although she found out the results of the competition, watching when she is out of action is just not an option for her.

"I had just had my operation on my knee. It was a simple operation and I

just focused on that and getting everything sorted and kept my head down," she said.

"I had to just step away. I get too upset, it just hurts too much to watch when I'm not running."

Her injuries the previous year made it a struggle to be fully fit for the London Olympics, which turned out to be a double-edged sword for Dobriskey.

"I was involved in it and got to experience a home Olympics, but there was a sense of hurt and disappointment with it," she said.

"On the day of the final I wasn't in the shape I would have wanted. I found it difficult to deal with.

"The biggest thing after the Olympics was that I felt annoyed by the whole thing. I wish I could have enjoyed it more than I did.

"You imagine it's all going to be perfect for you, but it felt like I was fighting against a tide the whole time.

"It just didn't happen for me. I feel a sense of sadness thinking about it. I don't have the memories I would have hoped to have had."

On the starting line alongside her for that final were athletes who had been banned in the past for doping offences.

It continued a sad trend that had

seen the reputation of the 1,500m event take a battering because of returning drugs cheats.

Although the rules allow them to compete again, the rules are simply wrong, according to Dobriskey, who has taken inspiration from marathon legend Paula Radcliffe when it comes to speaking out on the issue.

"The hardest thing last year was standing on the start line knowing some of the athletes had cheated in the past," she said.

"That's hard to take. You do have to as-

sume people aren't cheating, though. That's what's really difficult for me to deal with.

"You can only give your best on the day of the race. People are being caught – it's changing. If it continues to go on, there will be more people exposed.

"If you were in banking and you were caught stealing money, it's fraud. You wouldn't be employed again in that sector because of your record. In that sense, lifetime bans should be in place for cheating athletes.

“It feels like a fresh start and I can just get on with everything. There's no racing against time and I can just do what I need to do.”

Lisa Dobriskey,
1,500m runner

LISA DOBRISKEY'S TRACK RECORD

2012	Olympic Games 1,500m	10th place
2011	World Championships 1,500m	11th place in heats
2010	European Championships 1,500m	fourth place
2009	World Championships 1,500m	silver medal
2008	Olympic Games 1,500m	fourth place
2007	World Championships 1,500m	10th place in semi-final
	European Indoor Championships 3,000m	fifth place
2006	European Championships 1,500m	seventh place qualifying
	Commonwealth Games 1,500m	gold medal
2005	World University Games 1,500m	fifth place
2003	European U23 Championships 1,500m	bronze medal
2002	World Junior Championships 1,500m	fourth place
	European Junior Cross Country Championships	12th place
2001	European Junior Cross Country Championships	36th place

■ Personal best in the 1,500m is second only to Dame Kelly Holmes.

KEA



Taylor has just two weeks left to earn top job at Gillingham

INTERIM Gillingham boss Peter Taylor has just two more weeks to earn the job on a full-time basis.

Taylor feels that a permanent appointment will be made shortly before the Sheffield United game on November 16, meaning he has the home game against Carlisle this weekend and the FA Cup clash against Brackley next Saturday to impress for the role.

"Paul [Gills chair-

man Paul Scally] will be doing some interviews and hopefully I'm on that list," he said. "Paul knows me better than I know myself, so I imagine he will look at the other candidates, see what he likes and doesn't like, and compare them with myself.

"I think he is going to make his mind up on the permanent situation just before the Sheffield United game, which means I'm interim until then."



TAYLOR: Interim job



CLEAR VIEW: Lisa Dobriskey says the only way to clear up athletics is to ban drugs cheats for life

MIXED FUNDING NEWS FOR ATHLETES

THERE has been mixed news for Kent's athletes with regards to their funding for the next Olympics.

UK Athletics has been given £26.8 million by the National Lottery to help athletes get to Rio.

Sadly, it has been decided that Lisa Dobriskey will miss out on the 2013/14 cycle of funding, having been regarded as not having the potential to win a medal in Brazil.

There has been a certain amount of belt-tightening with regards to the new way of funding.

Under the old guidelines, athletes could be awarded funding based on their potential to make a major final. However, the new system sees only athletes with the considered potential to win a medal at the Rio Games being considered for the highest funding.

There are Kent athletes

who are on the list, though.

Dartford sprinter Adam Gemili, pictured, makes it into the Podium World Class

Performance Programme, along with the likes of Mo Farah and Jessica Ennis-Hill.

Blackheath and Bromley runner Dina Asher-Smith, who is likely to be in the women's 4x100m team, will be in the top tier of funding.

The 17-year-old was Great Britain's youngest squad member at the World

Athletics

Championships in

Russia in the summer.

Hythe hurdler Jack

Green is included in the

same bracket of funding

because of his position in

the men's 4x400m relay

team. He was a semi-

finalist in the 400m

hurdles at London 2012

and ran a strong leg in the

4x400m relay squad, which

came fourth in the final in

the Olympic stadium.



"I have always taken a lot of inspiration from Paula Radcliffe. She is outspoken about it. I'm not particularly outspoken, I'm quite shy. I don't usually say much, but this is something that really affects and upsets me.

"It's not like in cycling, where it is an individual and they have a team behind them. It's all behind closed doors in athletics.

"I have never been approached by anybody offering anything. It's not quite like that. If you want to cheat, you would find a way rather than them finding you."

With a clean slate and returning to fitness for the first time in a while, Dobriskey feels positive about what she can achieve in the future.

"It feels like a fresh start and I can just get on with everything," she said. "There's no racing against time and I can just do what I need to do. I'm quite lucky, really.

"One of the reasons I really struggled last year was because my physio took a break after the Olympics and went travelling, so I didn't have her support and she gets back in a month.

"I just needed a bit of a break as well as a bit of luck and I just kept hitting hurdles along the way.

"I love what I do. I love everything about running – with that pressure removed it's that bit more enjoyable."

KEA



DREAM: First round ties next week

Four sides in first round of the FA Cup

DARTFORD overcame rivals Ebbsfleet United at the second attempt to reach the FA Cup first round.

After a goalless draw last Saturday at Stonebridge Road, the pair met at Princes Park on Tuesday, with Elliot Bradbrook's penalty the difference between the sides.

Fleet had the chance to level from the spot after going behind, though, but Darts keeper Alan Julian saved Anthony Cook's effort to see them through.

They will now travel to Salisbury in the first round.

Gillingham also now know their opponents after Brackley beat Barrow 1-0 in their replay on Tuesday. Welling United are away to Luton Town and Dover Athletic travel to Corby Town.

Allen loaned out for two months

GILLINGHAM midfielder Charlie Allen has joined Conference Premier side Tamworth on loan.

The 21-year-old has started just two games this season, while making a further four appearances from the bench.

He has also not been involved since his dad, Martin Allen, was sacked as Gills manager earlier this month.

History just eludes Fox-Pitt in France

LONDON 2012 silver-medallist William Fox-Pitt just missed out on creating a bit of history at the Pau 4-star equestrian event in France.

Going into the final day, the Canterbury man held the top three positions with three different horses but could not complete the treble, which had not been done before. However, he did claim a win and a third place.

Veteran forward signs for Invicta

NEIL Cugley has added some firepower to his squad by bringing in Maidstone United forward Paul Booth.

The 36-year-old has been on Cugley's radar since he scored the only goal in the Ryman One South play-off semi-final last year between the Stones and Invicta.

Booth has joined the club initially on loan.

Trio given Airwaves test at Snetterton

AIRWAVES Racing gave three young champions the chance to impress in a test at Snetterton this week.

The British Touring Car team based in Wrotham put 24-year-old

Formula Ford champion Dan Cammish, 17-year-old vice-champion Harrison Scott and 22-year-old Clio Cup Champion Josh Files through their paces in the NGTC Ford Focus.

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ME9 9AQ
01795 393110

Honeywood Parkway
Whitfield
CT16 3PT
01304 249243

Westwood Road
Broadstairs
CT10 2NP
01843 606337



VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO₂ emissions: 373 - 88g/km.*

Available on selected models only, at participating Retailers. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/offers or contact your local Vauxhall Retailer for details. Finance subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Finance supplied by Vauxhall Finance. P0 Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Offer will apply to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only, excluding B2B supported units). All other customers are excluded. **Vauxhall Deposit Contribution may vary and excludes ADAM, Mokka, Cascada and New Insignia (MY14) models. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. ^Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and Conditions apply. Offers available on orders or registrations before 16 December 2013. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.